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College of Law Practice Management Urges Continued Funding for Legal Services Corporation

Denver, CO, March 14, 2011 – The **Legal Services Corporation** (www.lsc.gov) (“LSC”) is the single largest provider of civil legal aid for the poor in the United States. Established by Congress in 1974, LSC operates as an independent 501(c) (3) nonprofit corporation that promotes equal access to justice and provides for high-quality civil legal assistance to low-income Americans. 136 independent nonprofit legal aid programs provide legal assistance through more than 900 offices throughout the United States to low-income individuals and families. Nearly 57 million Americans are eligible for LSC-funded services.

On March 5, 2011, the Board of Trustees of the College of Law Practice Management (“the College”) voted to support continued funding for LSC in light of a Congressional proposal to cut \$70 million from the LSC budget. “In light of the increasing needs of low-income individuals, it’s unthinkable that the government will decrease funding for equal access to justice. The proposed cuts will deny legal services to those who need them most,” said K. William Gibson, a lawyer from Oregon, who is the president of the College’s board. “Our support is unanimous and bolstered by our hands-on work with local LSC programs.” He hopes lawyers and others involved in the legal profession will contact their local members of Congress and express support for continued funding of LSC.

The College has an action agenda to “...make a difference, and use the talent, skill and experience of the Fellows to improve the profession.” In 2009, a memorandum of understanding was developed to match the resources of the College with the management, technology and marketing needs of LSC programs. This resulted in the College’s participation in the regular

College of Law Practice Management Urges Continued funding for Legal Services Corporation program performance visits designed to observe and improve the operations of legal aid organizations funded by LSC. These visits are a standard part of the quality assurance effort of LSC.

The College Fellows who have participated in the visits speak about how rewarding it is to assist LSC, an organization that makes such a difference in so many lives. Fellows have assisted with such diverse areas as communications, leadership transition, staffing and local outreach.

The **College of Law Practice Management** (www.colpm.org) is a nonprofit organization that recognizes, inspires and promotes excellence in law practice management by identifying and honoring extraordinary achievement and acting as a catalyst for positive change within the legal profession.

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