

and to continue the present vital legal services program;

(3) providing legal assistance to those who face an economic barrier to adequate legal counsel will serve best the ends of justice and assist in improving opportunities for low-income persons consistent with the purposes of this chapter;

(4) for many of our citizens, the availability of legal services has reaffirmed faith in our government of laws;

(5) to preserve its strength, the legal services program must be kept free from the influence of or use by it of political pressures; and

(6) attorneys providing legal assistance must have full freedom to protect the best interests of their clients in keeping with the Code of Professional Responsibility, the Canons of Ethics, and the high standards of the legal profession.

(Pub. L. 88-452, title X, §1001, as added Pub. L. 93-355, §2, July 25, 1974, 88 Stat. 378; amended Pub. L. 95-222, §2, Dec. 28, 1977, 91 Stat. 1619.)

AMENDMENTS

1977—Par. (3). Pub. L. 95-222 inserted provision relating to assistance in improving opportunities for low-income persons consistent with this chapter.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1977 AMENDMENT

Section 17(b) of Pub. L. 95-222 provided that: "The amendments made by provisions of this Act other than sections 11 and 15 [amending this section and sections 2996c, 2996e, 2996f, 2996g, 2996h, 2996i, and 2996j] of this title shall be effective on the date of enactment of this Act [Dec. 28, 1977]."

SHORT TITLE

This subchapter is known as the "Legal Services Corporation Act", see Short Title note set out under section 2701 of this title.

§ 2996a. Definitions

As used in this subchapter, the term—

(1) "Board" means the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation;

(2) "Corporation" means the Legal Services Corporation established under this subchapter;

(3) "eligible client" means any person financially unable to afford legal assistance;

(4) "Governor" means the chief executive officer of a State;

(5) "legal assistance" means the provision of any legal services consistent with the purposes and provisions of this subchapter;

(6) "recipient" means any grantee, contractee, or recipient of financial assistance described in clause (A) of section 2996e(a)(1) of this title;

(7) "staff attorney" means an attorney who receives more than one-half of his annual professional income from a recipient organized solely for the provision of legal assistance to eligible clients under this subchapter; and

(8) "State" means any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, and any other territory or possession of the United States.

(Pub. L. 88-452, title X, §1002, as added Pub. L. 93-355, §2, July 25, 1974, 88 Stat. 378.)

TERMINATION OF TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

For termination of Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, see note set out preceding section 1681 of Title 48, Territories and Insular Possessions.

§ 2996b. Legal Services Corporation

(a) Establishment; purpose

There is established in the District of Columbia a private nonmembership nonprofit corporation, which shall be known as the Legal Services Corporation, for the purpose of providing financial support for legal assistance in noncriminal proceedings or matters to persons financially unable to afford legal assistance.

(b) Principal office; agent for service of process

The Corporation shall maintain its principal office in the District of Columbia and shall maintain therein a designated agent to accept service of process for the Corporation. Notice to or service upon the agent shall be deemed notice to or service upon the Corporation.

(c) Status of Corporation under tax laws

The Corporation, and any legal assistance program assisted by the Corporation, shall be eligible to be treated as an organization described in section 170(c)(2)(B) of title 26 and as an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of title 26 which is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of title 26. If such treatments are conferred in accordance with the provisions of title 26, the Corporation, and legal assistance programs assisted by the Corporation, shall be subject to all provisions of title 26 relevant to the conduct of organizations exempt from taxation.

(Pub. L. 88-452, title X, §1003, as added Pub. L. 93-355, §2, July 25, 1974, 88 Stat. 379; amended Pub. L. 99-514, §2, Oct. 22, 1986, 100 Stat. 2095.)

AMENDMENTS

1986—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 99-514 substituted "Internal Revenue Code of 1986" for "Internal Revenue Code of 1954" wherever appearing, which for purposes of codification was translated as "title 26" thus requiring no change in text.

TRANSITION TO LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION PROGRAM

Section 3(a)-(d)(1), (e) of Pub. L. 93-355 provided that: "(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, effective ninety days after the date of the first meeting of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation established under the Legal Services Corporation Act (title X of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, as added by this Act) [this subchapter], the Legal Services Corporation shall succeed to all rights of the Federal Government to capital equipment in the possession of legal services programs or activities assisted pursuant to section 222(a)(3), 230, 232 [sections 2809(a)(3), 2823, and 2825 of this title], or any other provision of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 [this chapter]."

"(b) Within ninety days after the first meeting of the Board, all assets, liabilities, obligations, property, and records as determined by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity [now the Director of the Office of Community Services] or the head of any successor authority, to be employed directly or held or used primarily, in connection with any function of the Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity or the head of any successor authority in carrying out legal services activities under the Eco-