

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF FULL FUNDING FOR THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

In response to the Trump administration's proposed "skinny budget," which would eliminate all federal funding for the Legal Services Corporation (LSC), the LBA has joined local and state bar associations around the country in calling upon Congress to instead appropriate funds sufficient to allow the LSC to continue fulfilling its vital role in providing equal access to justice for low-income Americans.

WHEREAS the Trump administration's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2018 calls for elimination of all federal appropriations to the Legal Services Corporation (LSC);

WHEREAS the LSC has enjoyed bipartisan support in Congress since its inception in 1974 because it embodies principles – including fairness and equal access to justice – that define us as Americans;

WHEREAS appropriations to the LSC comprise only 1/10,000th of the federal budget and multiple audits show that the LSC awards 93.7 percent of its total budget in grants to 133 organizations with more than 800 offices nationwide;

WHEREAS the LSC, with a presence in every congressional district, is the single largest provider of civil legal aid for low-income Americans in the nation, helping veterans secure housing, protecting seniors from scams, delivering legal services to rural areas, protecting victims of domestic abuse, representing parties in guardianship proceedings and helping disaster survivors get back on their feet;

WHEREAS more than 30 cost-benefit studies show that

LSC grantees offer a strong return on investment, saving taxpayer dollars by solving problems that would cost society significantly more if not addressed;

WHEREAS elimination of funding for the four LSC-funded organizations in Kentucky would severely impact citizens' access to justice, effectively ensuring that they would not receive representation for their legal needs;

WHEREAS the Louisville Legal Aid Society – which serves Jefferson County and fourteen surrounding counties – is the oldest of Kentucky's LSC-funded organizations, having been founded in 1921 by several groups, including the Louisville Bar Association, with a mission to "pursue justice for people in poverty," which it has successfully accomplished for nearly a century;

WHEREAS elimination of funding for the LSC would also eliminate the administrative framework which currently enables the private bar to offer millions of dollars in pro bono services to help the most vulnerable citizens needing guidance through our legal system; and

WHEREAS our federal government was founded on the concept of justice for all and funding for equal justice is a federal duty not to be transferred as an unfunded mandate to state and local governments;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisville Bar Association, by and through its Board of Directors, joins numerous other local and state bar associations around the country in calling upon Congress not to eliminate or reduce funding to the LSC but to instead appropriate funds sufficient to enable the LSC to continue fulfilling its vital role in providing equal access to justice.

ADOPTED this 27 of March, 2017.



Amanda G. Main, President
Louisville Bar Association

Chantell Foley:

A Labor Lawyer's Journey from Assembly Line to Law School and Beyond

Tim Lawson



why there wasn't someone available to interpret the law to those caught up in the legal system. Then one day she thought maybe she could be just that person.

Foley worked at Toyota, a company she had come to admire, from 1994 to 2004. Then her husband, who also worked at Toyota, was transferred to San Antonio, Texas. While there, Foley decided to return to college to complete her undergraduate degree at the University of Texas, San Antonio. Still intrigued by the law and her interest in playing a vital role in people's lives—she took the LSAT, thanks to a proactive professor who advised her to take the test, and so began her legal education.

Chantell Foley knew in the back of her mind that she was cut out for something more. Working on the assembly line floor at the Toyota Motor Manufacturing Kentucky plant—initially assembling automotive doors, then later working as a quality control specialist—Foley loved the company she worked for, but discovered within herself a passion for helping people caught in the legal system.

A nagging voice inside her head often called her attention to the disparity between those who were informed and educated and those who weren't when it came to understanding the law. When she heard the news or watched crime reports on TV, she wondered

When she and her husband moved back to Kentucky, she enrolled in the University of Kentucky College of Law. She admits there were days that were intimidating, but she kept pushing through. She was interested initially in criminal law—where she felt she could have the most impact on helping those mired in the system but lacking the knowledge or understanding of the lingo required to navigate their way through.

While clerking for a circuit court judge after law school, she sent her resume to Wil James, president of Toyota Motor Manufacturing Kentucky. He in turn provided it to Pat Nepute, Toyota's General Counsel. She liked

working at Toyota, had immense respect for them and felt that she had something to offer in terms of working in their legal department—especially considering her unique position as an assembly line worker there years before. But Nepute did not have any available positions in his department at the time, so he decided to send her resume on to Jeff Savarise in Louisville, a partner at the company's labor and employment law firm, Fisher Phillips.

Savarise and his partners were intrigued and impressed with Foley's background, experience and unique perspective. Even though the firm was still in the process of getting the Louisville office established and did not have any available positions, Savarise invited Foley to visit their offices to talk. Savarise remained interested and kept Foley's resume and contact information close by.

In the meantime, Foley went on to work for the Fayette County Public Defender's Office. She says she winces when people express a low opinion of public defenders because she never has and still doesn't see it that way. She sees them as the true, hard-working champions in the legal system who help people. It allowed her to put into action what once frustrated her—watching helpless people get tangled up in the complexities and intricacies of the legal system, many unable to make informed choices, and paying for it dearly with unfavorable verdicts. She took great pride in her ability to translate legal terms and steps so that clients could make

informed decisions about their options, giving them the knowledge they needed to make important choices, in many ways impacting their entire lives.

Foley also went on to work for Kentucky's Energy and Environment Cabinet, where she represented the Office of Mine Safety and Licensing, as well as the Department of Natural Resources. She also worked for Kentucky's Labor Cabinet, where she became further acquainted with labor and employment issues, including occupational safety and health laws, wage and hour issues, and child labor laws.

In spring of 2015, Fisher Phillips had an opening and contacted Foley. At the time, Foley not only had a unique perspective as a former assembly line employee at the Toyota plant, but she also had a vast array of legal experience under her belt. Based on her background, she was the perfect fit and accepted a position with the firm's Louisville office.

Since joining Fisher Phillips, Foley has returned to Toyota for many meetings. She was even recognized by President Wil James, who proudly stated that she was "one of theirs"—noting that his employees are encouraged to pursue their dreams. Foley now represents many companies with their employment law needs, including Toyota, and has truly moved successfully from the assembly line to her dream of being an attorney. ■