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## New LSC President Visits LSC Programs in Georgia and Maryland

The Atlanta Legal Aid Society and the Georgia Legal Services Program welcomed new LSC President James J. Sandman on February 10. Sandman met with Atlanta Legal Aid Executive Director Steve Gottlieb and Georgia Legal Services Executive Director Phyllis Holmen.

During his visit to Atlanta Legal Aid, Jim Sandman and Steve Gottlieb discussed the challenges that the LSC president faces in a time of fiscal pressures. The two discussed how Atlanta Legal Aid had prepared itself for the economic downturn and also how it continued to provide high-quality services to Atlanta's low-income community and to maintain its various special projects for particularly vulnerable populations like homeowners subject to foreclosure, people with AIDS and cancer, seniors and the disabled.



**LSC President James J. Sandman (center) stands with Warren Oliveri (left) and Wilhelm Joseph, president and executive director, respectively, of Maryland's Legal Aid Bureau.**

At Georgia Legal Services, Jim Sandman met with Executive Director Phyllis Holmen and State Bar Pro Bono Director Michael Monahan and, among other topics, discussed the scarcity of private attorneys in rural Georgia who can do pro bono work.

Mike Monahan pointed out that 40 percent of Georgia's 159 counties have 10 or fewer active lawyers, and that count includes judges, prosecutors, and other categories of lawyers generally unable to provide civil legal services.

The meetings with the Georgia programs were held during the ABA's recent mid-year meeting in Atlanta. Jim Sandman participated in and spoke at meetings of the National Association of IOLTA Programs, the ABA Commission on IOLTA, and the ABA Standing Committee on Legal Aid and Indigent Defense (SCLAID).

"I'm grateful for the warm welcome that my new colleagues in the legal services community have given me," said Sandman, "and I'm so impressed by their talent, energy, and passion. I look forward to building on and strengthening LSC's alliances with others serving the clients of LSC-funded programs."

On February 17, Jim Sandman visited the Baltimore office of Maryland Legal Aid, meeting with the Legal Aid staff, members of the judiciary, the private bar and another major funder. He told the group that his priorities are to increase LSC's funding, expand public awareness of civil legal assistance and to strengthen alliances with other groups that serve low-income communities.

Wilhelm Joseph, the Maryland program's executive director, hosted the meeting. Among those attending were Maryland District Court Chief Judge Ben Clyburn, Retired Court of Appeals Judge Irma Raker, Equal Justice Council cochairmen Andrew Jay Graham and Ben Rosenberg, Maryland Legal Services Corporation Executive Director Susan Erlichman, Legal Aid Bureau President Warren Oliveri and former LSC Board member Herbert S. Garten.