DALLAS BAR & SISTER BAR ASSOCIATIONS STATEMENT REGARDING FUNDING FOR LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

The Dallas Bar Association, J.L. Turner Legal Association, Dallas Asian American Bar Association, Dallas Hispanic Bar Association, Dallas Association of Young Lawyers, Dallas Women Lawyers Association, and Dallas LGBT Bar Association have prepared a joint resolution voicing its concern over the proposed elimination of funding for the Legal Services Corporation (LSC). The associations feel that by coming together, they present a stronger voice in opposition to the elimination of funding and hope to emphasize the importance of this action. The LSC funds Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas, Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid, and Lone Star Legal Aid. The DBA Board of Directors is deeply concerned about the proposed elimination of funding and its effect on the citizens of Dallas, the State of Texas, and the nation.

The resolution reads:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the proposed federal budget for Fiscal Year 2018, includes zero funding for the Legal Services Corporation (LSC.)

WHEREAS LSC is the single largest funder of civil legal aid for low-income Americans in the nation. Established in 1974, LSC operates as an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation that promotes equal access to justice and provides grants for high-quality civil legal assistance to low-income Americans. LSC grantees provide legal aid services in 812 offices throughout the United States and its territories.

WHEREAS the Dallas Bar Association Board of Directors is deeply concerned about the proposed elimination and its effect on the citizens of Dallas, the State of Texas, and the nation.

WHEREAS funding for LSC helps secure access to justice for low-income persons throughout Texas, including veterans, senior citizens, disaster survivors, women and children.

WHEREAS, elimination of funding to the LSC offices in Texas, which includes Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas, Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid, and Lone Star Legal Aid, would have devastating consequences.

WHEREAS without LSC, and its funding to the Texas legal aid offices, our citizens’ access to justice would be severely impacted, ensuring that many of them would not receive representation for their legal needs.

THEREFORE, the Board of Directors, joining other bar associations across the country who recognize the severity of this proposed budget cut, urges that the funding be reinstated to ensure access to justice for everyone.

ADOPTED this 13th day of April 2017.

###

The Dallas Bar Association is a professional, voluntary organization of nearly 11,000 Dallas-area attorneys. Find out more at www.dallasbar.org.