

ethics and independence of judgment is concerned. An old mistake, corrected many years ago, would be repeated. At one time, a number of local Legal Aid Societies were a part of Family Service Agencies (welfare organizations). We learned painfully at that time that such a relationship was destructive of the concept of Legal Aid, and all Legal Aid Societies have been removed from the domination of Family Service or any other welfare organizations; they have been made distinct entities responsible to the Legal Profession.

The State Bar of Michigan is heartily in accord with the philosophy of representation on the Legal Service Boards of Directors, of the people whom we are trying to serve. Any proposals made by us for independent status presuppose a continuation of this philosophy in the decision-making process of the programs, subject of course, to full recognition that what is being rendered is a legal service; that this service must be rendered in accordance with the ethics of our profession and hence control must rest with the Bar.

Finally, if it can be fairly stated that the overall goal of the anti-poverty effort is Justice in the broadest sense to the underprivileged, then Legal Aid, in bringing a knowledge of the law, a demonstration of the law, and a respect for the law, must be given a very high priority. When we convince a person that the law can be an effective weapon for him also; when we prove to him he can get basic justice; when we convince him that pursuing his legal rights and assuming his legal responsibilities is the best path to follow in resolving his problems, then indeed we have helped him take the first step up the ladder leading out of poverty.

Our hope is that through your favorable consideration and support, we will be able to accomplish our mutual goal of "Equal Justice Under Law" for all citizens, by providing the required professional representation to handle the overwhelming and justifiable demand from the indigent for legal services.

Yours sincerely,

WILLIAM M. ELLMANN, *President.*

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN

Whereas, the organized bar has long acknowledged its responsibility to make legal services available to all who need them, and this Association has been a leader in discharging this responsibility; and

Whereas, the organized bar has extended legal services to indigents for many years; and

Whereas, individual lawyers traditionally have rendered service without charge to those who cannot pay; and

Whereas, despite this considerable effort of individual lawyers and the organized bar over many decades, it is recognized that the growing complexities of modern life, shifts of large portions of our population, and enlarged demands for legal services in many new fields of activity warrant increased concern for the unfilled need for legal services, particularly as to persons of low income and that the organized bar has an urgent duty to extend and improve existing services and also to develop more effective means of assuring that legal services are in fact available to reasonable cost for all who need them; and

Whereas, the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 provides for cooperative programs with state and local agencies through which various services, including legal services, may be rendered to persons of low incomes who need advice and assistance; and

Whereas, freedom and justice have flourished only where the practice of law is a profession and where legal services are performed by trained and independent lawyers;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the State Bar of Michigan reaffirms its deep concern with the problem of providing legal services to all who need them, including indigents, and to persons of low income who, without guidance or assistance, have difficulty in obtaining access to competent legal services at reasonable cost; and authorizes the officers and appropriate Sections and Committees of the Association, including such additional special committee (if any) as the Board of Commissioners may establish, in cooperation with local bar associations to improve existing methods and to develop more effective methods for meeting the public need for adequate legal services; and