



Alaska Legal Services Corporation

Access to Justice for Alaskans in Need



March 2, 2015

Senator Lesil McGuire
Alaska State Capitol, Room 121
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

RE: SB 49, Civil Legal Services Fund - clarification re: restrictions on ALSC's cases

Dear Senator McGuire:

At last week's Senate Judiciary hearing there appeared to be some confusion regarding the types of cases that Alaska Legal Services Corporation can provide assistance with. Given this, I wanted to take the opportunity to clarify for the record that there are certain categories of cases that Alaska Legal Services is specifically prohibited by federal law from engaging in. As a recipient of funds from the national Legal Services Corporation, Alaska Legal Services Corporation is **PROHIBITED** by federal law (see 42 U.S.C. 2996 et seq., 45 CFR Part 1610) from participating in any of the following types of cases:

- Criminal cases;
- Abortion related litigation of any kind;
- Representation of undocumented immigrants (except where human trafficking is involved);
- Class Actions;
- Representation of prisoners;
- Representation of those evicted from public housing due to illegal drug use;
- Redistricting activities; and
- Cases where a private attorney would take the case on a contingency fee basis.

ALSC takes these restrictions very seriously and is audited yearly to assure our compliance with these regulations. I hope this information allays any concerns the committee may have that if ALSC were better funded, we would engage in such activities. We are clearly bound by federal law from doing so.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you again for your support of SB 49.

Sincerely,

Nikole Nelson

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