



**LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION**  
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*President*

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April 10, 1998

Juan A. Gonzales, Executive Director  
Legal Aid Society of Albuquerque, Inc.  
121 Tijeras N.E. Suite 3100.

Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102

Dear Mr. Gonzales:

This is a response to your March 9, 1998 request for an opinion on whether Legal Aid

appropriations act. Thus, legal assistance under the VAWA grant may not include any prohibited activities.<sup>2</sup>

The alien eligibility guidelines, on the other hand, apply to all clients served by a

recipient. Section 504(a)(11) of Public Law 104-134 and §1626.3 prohibit the Corporation from funding a recipient that provides legal assistance to certain categories of aliens, regardless of the source of funds used. However, an exception exists in Part 1626 for certain victims of domestic abuse. Section 1626.4 permits recipients to use non-J SC funds to provide legal assistance to

aliens who are victims of domestic abuse as described in §1626.2(f) and (g) and 1626.4. It is likely that, most, if not all, clients served under the VAWA grant would fall within this exception.<sup>3</sup> That is a determination that will need to be made by your program.<sup>4</sup> You will not