

PROPOSAL CONCERNING UT LEGAL CLINIC

August 11, 1981

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1. The current grant from the Legal Services Corporation to the UT Legal Clinic/Knoxville Legal Aid Society expires December 31, 1981. It is recommended that the status quo be maintained until the grant expires subject to the following conditions, as expressed by Mr. Harry W. Laughlin at the June 18, 1981, meeting:
 - a. The UT Board has final and ultimate authority over all activities of the University, including the College of Law, the grant conditions notwithstanding. The Dean of the College of Law has administrative responsibility for all activities of the College of Law, and all personnel, including Clinic attorneys. The Chancellor of the Knoxville campus and the University President have full responsibility for the College of Law and its Legal Clinic, as set forth in the University By-Laws.
 - b. In conducting the Legal Services Program, no suits of significance shall be brought by the UT Legal Clinic on behalf of any litigant against the State of Tennessee, its agencies or instrumentalities or any state official acting in his official capacity.
2. The University of Tennessee will not apply for future funding by the Legal Services Corporation. However, a number of factors require that the University develop a responsible transition plan. These factors include: the expectation of law students that courses in legal clinic work already scheduled for the spring semester of the current academic year will be available (these courses are supported by LSC funding); teaching staff in the Clinic supported by LSC funding have the expectation, assuming adequate and continued LSC funding, that their appointments will run through June 30, 1982; the Knoxville Bar Association and the Knoxville Legal Aid Society have asked for and unquestionably need time to develop plans and mechanisms for providing legal services to the indigent of the Knoxville Service Area.

Consequently, it is proposed that the Knoxville Legal Aid Society apply for future LSC grants and that, assuming such funding occurs, the Legal Services Program in question be conducted by the Knoxville Legal Aid Society effective January 1, 1982. The University proposes to contract with the Knoxville Legal Aid Society whereby the UT Legal Clinic will continue to operate at least the clinical educational component of the program in question. In any event, the University will work with the legal community of Knoxville to make the transition of responsibility for legal services to the indigent as orderly as possible.

3. Following expiration of the LSC grant, the College of Law will continue to operate a clinical educational program, subject to the official policies and procedures of the University as defined by the Board of Trustees.
4. In the interest of increased understanding of the activities of the UT Legal Clinic, the Dean of the College of Law will provide to the Chancellor and the President an annual report on the activities of the Clinic for the preceding year.
5. The University administration expresses confidence in the leadership, faculty and staff of the College of Law and the Legal Clinic and pledges its support in the continuing effort to maintain and achieve new levels of excellence in legal and clinical education.