

(c) Knowledge and understanding of the legal problems and needs of the poor;

(d) Prior working experience in the client community, or in other programs to aid the poor;

(e) Ability to communicate with persons in the client community, including, in areas where significant numbers of eligible clients speak a language other than English as their principal language, ability to speak that language; and

(f) Cultural similarity with the client community.

**§ 1616.4 Recommendations.**

(a) Before filling an attorney position, a recipient shall notify the organized Bar in the community of the existence of a vacancy, and of the qualifications established for it, and seek recommendations for attorneys who meet the qualifications established for the position.

(b) A recipient shall similarly notify and seek recommendations from other organizations, deemed appropriate by the recipient, that have knowledge of the legal needs of persons in the community unable to afford legal assistance.

**§ 1616.5 Preference to local applicants.**

When equally qualified applicants are under consideration for an attorney position, a recipient shall give preference to an applicant residing in the community to be served.

**§ 1616.6 Equal employment opportunity.**

A recipient shall adopt employment qualifications, procedures, and policies that meet the requirements of applicable laws prohibiting discrimination in employment, and shall take affirmative action to insure equal employment opportunity.

**§ 1616.7 Language ability.**

In areas where a significant number of clients speak a language other than English as their principal language, a recipient shall adopt employment policies that insure that legal assistance will be provided in the language spoken by such clients.

**PART 1617—CLASS ACTIONS**

Sec.

1617.1 Purpose.

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AUTHORITY: 29 U.S.C. 2996e(d)(5); 110 Stat. 3009 (1996); 110 Stat. 1321 (1996).

SOURCE: 61 FR 63755, Dec. 2, 1996, unless otherwise noted.

**§ 1617.1 Purpose.**

This rule is intended to ensure that LSC recipients do not initiate or participate in class actions.

**§ 1617.2 Definitions.**

(a) *Class action* means a lawsuit filed as, or otherwise declared by the court having jurisdiction over the case to be, a class action pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure or the comparable State statute or rule of civil procedure applicable in the court in which the action is filed.

(b)(1) *Initiating or participating in any class action* means any involvement at any stage of a class action prior to or after an order granting relief. "Involvement" includes acting as amicus curiae, co-counsel or otherwise providing representation relating to a class action.

(2) *Initiating or participating in any class action* does not include representation of an individual client seeking to withdraw from or opt out of a class or obtain the benefit of relief ordered by the court, or non-adversarial activities, including efforts to remain informed about, or to explain, clarify, educate or advise others about the terms of an order granting relief.

**§ 1617.3 Prohibition.**

Recipients are prohibited from initiating or participating in any class action.

**§ 1617.4 Recipient policies and procedures.**

Each recipient shall adopt written policies and procedures to guide its staff in complying with this part.