

Helaine M. Barnett has devoted her entire professional career to the provision of legal aid to the poor and in the pursuit of equal access to justice. In January 2004, she was appointed President of the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) in Washington, DC, the first legal aid attorney to serve in that position, where she served for six years. Under her leadership, LSC issued the groundbreaking Justice Gap Report, which documented the unmet civil legal needs of low-income Americans. Before joining LSC, she spent 37 years with The Legal Aid Society in New York City, the last ten as Attorney-in-Charge of its multi-office Civil Division. Among her accomplishments, she created its Homeless Family Rights Project and mobilized its 9/11 disaster assistance response. Since returning to New York in 2010, she was appointed by the Chief Judge of New York to chair a statewide Task Force to Expand Access to Civil Legal Services, which has become the New York State Permanent Commission on Access to Justice, which she continues to chair. As a result of its work, New York has allocated annually \$100 million of state funding for civil legal services, more than any other state in the country. She also taught a seminar at NYU Law School on Access to the Civil Justice System and founded Legal Hand, which are neighborhood storefront centers staffed with community volunteers, who are not lawyers, who provide legal information, assistance, and referrals to try to prevent issues from turning into legal actions. She has held leadership positions in the American Bar Association, serving on its Board of Governors and its Executive Committee. She is a recipient of numerous awards, including the ABA Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement, the Lifetime Achievement Award from the *New York Law Journal*, and the New York State Bar Association Gold Medal for Distinguished Service in the Law, Fellows Outstanding Service Award, and has published several law review articles on access to justice.