



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

The Board of Directors
Northwestern Legal Services
Erie, Pennsylvania

We have audited the accompanying statement of financial position of Northwestern Legal Services (NWLS) as of June 30, 2004, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of NWLS's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. The prior-year summarized comparative information has been derived from NWLS's June 30, 2003 financial statements and, in our report dated August 26, 2003, we expressed an unqualified opinion on those financial statements.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of NWLS as of June 30, 2004, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated September 2, 2004, on our consideration of NWLS's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements, and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing and not to provide an opinion on the financial reporting or compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and should be considered in assessing the results of our audit.



Our audit was performed for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements of NWLS taken as a whole. The supplementary information on pages 14 through 16 is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements of NWLS. The schedule of expenditures of federal awards is presented for purposes of additional analysis as required by U.S. Office of Management and Budget Circular A-133, *Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations*, and is also not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

McKonly & Asbury, LLP

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
September 2, 2004