

# Legal Services Corp. chief resigns

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WASHINGTON — Under pressure from members of Congress and the employees under him, Donald Bogard has resigned after two years of bitter controversy as president of the Legal Services Corp.

The resignation, confirmed yesterday by a corporation spokesman, removes a major source of conflict over how the taxpayer-financed corporation delivers legal help in non-criminal matters to poor people throughout the nation.

Sen. Warren B. Rudman (R., N.H.), a frequent critic of Bogard's management tactics, said that Bogard's departure from his \$69,000-a-year job rids the agency of "a symbol of what many members of Congress thought was going down there at legal services."

"He operated in a cavalier fashion, giving no thought whatever to the successful programs being run by the agency," added Rudman, acting chairman of the appropriations subcommittee that oversees the corporation's \$305 million budget.

Bogard has been blamed for curtailing various legal-services programs and restricting communication between agency lawyers and public officials and the press.

Recently appointed members of the corporation's board of directors, who have yet to be confirmed by the Senate, said that Bogard's resignation would make it easier for the agency to regain congressional confidence and free itself of limitations imposed by a suspicious Congress.

Congress has insisted on closely monitoring the corporation as a means of thwarting President Reagan's continuing efforts to abolish

the legal-services program through his budgetary and appointment powers. Reagan and other conservatives believe that the program has become an organized lobbying effort, sponsored by the government, to engineer major social change.

Bogard has said he was trying to curb waste and eliminate such agency abuses as lobbying and political activity.

The Senate never has confirmed any Reagan nominees to the board but, Rudman said, that may occur now that Bogard was gone.

"He (Bogard) made a generous offer to step aside," said board member Basile J. Uddo, professor at Loyola University Law School. "That will give the new board a chance for a fresh start. I don't think things have worked well in the last two years because of the controversy."

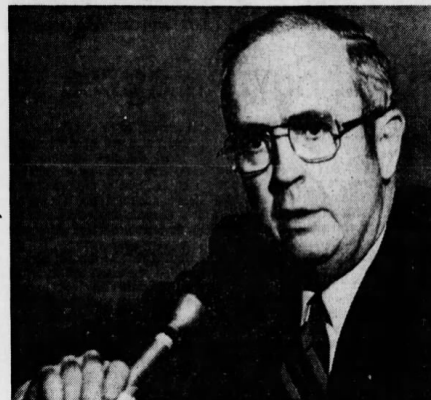
For months, Bogard has been the

target of a campaign by the National Organization of Legal Services Workers, which represents about 3,500 — about 40 percent — of the corporation's lawyers and clerical employees.

The union contended, among other things, that Bogard and his aides had harassed workers, fought to restrict legal aid and "replaced an experienced, diverse staff with a mostly white, male group with no legal-services background but with a clear ideological bent."

Bogard's resignation, which takes effect Jan. 31, was "a significant step in getting legal services back on course, but only a first step," said Jim Braude, president of the union.

Bogard, who has about a year and a half remaining on his employment contract, was unavailable for comment.



Bogard's leaving may end the disputes shadowing the agency

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