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Community Service: A New National Priority

From New Deal To New Covenant *Service In the 20th Century*

by Paul Belden
Connection Editor

In the depths of the Great Depression, Americans found jobs and hope in the Civilian Conservation Corps; 30 years later, their children found inspiration in the Peace Corps. Now, in the 1990s, community service is back in the national spotlight.

Although a program has yet to be formulated, one thing seems clear: in pursuing a national plan for community service, Bill Clinton has embraced a concept that has served as a pillar of 20th century liberalism in the style of Franklin Delano Roosevelt and John F. Kennedy.

Call To Service From William James

Actually, the idea of a national community service plan predates even Roosevelt. In 1910, William James called in a speech for the creation of a corps of volunteers that would be employed to fight society's domestic ailments. These volunteers, James said, would be analogous to citizens volunteering to fight a common enemy in time of war.

It was not until 1933, however, that the first national American community service program was implemented.

*Cont. on page 9;
See History*

Election Energizes Campaign For National Loan Repayment Aid For Public Service Lawyers

by Paul Belden
Connection Editor

The idea of coupling community service with educational debt repayment — an idea that for years has been a key issue for the law student public interest movement — has caught fire with the election of Bill Clinton.

President-elect Clinton said shortly after the election that establishing a National Service Trust Program would be one of

the top five priorities of his new administration. Now, with the approach of Inaugural Day, the transition team has been working to turn that commitment into a reality.

The situation presents a challenge and an opportunity to law students. Making loan repayment for public service a broadly available option for lawyers would go a long way toward allowing stu-

*Cont. on page 8;
See Debt*

Coming Soon To Your Region: Organizing Training from NAPIL

NAPIL's Regional Training Workshops give you the opportunity to learn the fundamentals of organizing and help shape the public interest agenda on law school campuses.

To find the date and location of the workshop nearest your school, please turn to page 12.

In the photo above, a student shows off his group's T-shirt with pride at the 1992 Southeastern workshop.



NAPIL

The National Association for Public Interest Law

1118 22nd Street NW, Third Floor

Washington DC 20037

tel 202-466-3686 fax 202-429-9766

Student Programs

American EJP
Arizona State OPIL
Boston College PILF
Boston Univ. PIP
Brigham Young PILS
Brooklyn Law School LSPI
California Western APIL
Capital PILF
Case Western Reserve SPILF
Catholic SPIL
Columbia PILF
Cornell PILU
DePaul PILA
Dickinson PILF
Duke SFF
Emory PIC
Florida State PPS
Fordham SFF
Franklin Pierce PIC
George Mason APIL
George Washington EJP
Georgetown EJP
Golden Gate PILF
Gonzaga PILP
Harvard SFF
Hofstra PJF
Howard PILS
IIT Chicago Kent KJF
Indiana-Bloomington PILF
Indiana-Indianapolis APIL
John Marshall PILC
Lewis & Clark PILP
Loyola-Chicago PILS
Loyola-New Orleans PILG
Minnesota Justice Foundation
New England School of Law PILA
New York Law School PIC
New York University PILF
Northeastern CISP
Northwestern SFFIF
Notre Dame PILF
Nova PILON
Ohio State SFF
Pace PILSO
Pepperdine APIL
Rutgers-Camden APIL
Rutgers-Newark PILF
Saint Louis Univ. PILG
Santa Clara PILF
Seton Hall PILF
Southwestern PILC
Stetson PSF
SUNY-Buffalo PILP
Syracuse GO
Temple AJC
Touro PILOT
Tulane PILF
U of Arizona PILO
U of Baltimore SPI
U of Bridgeport PILP
UC-Berkeley BLF
UC-Davis KHLF
UC-Hastings PILF
UCLA PILF
U of Chicago CLF
U of Connecticut PILG
U of Denver PILG
U of Florida APIL
U of Georgia EJP
U of Hawaii APIL
U of Houston PILO
U of Illinois PILF
U of Iowa EJP
U of Maine APIL
U of Maryland PILP
U of Miami PILG
U of Michigan SFF
U of Mississippi PILC
U of Missouri-Columbia EJP
U of Missouri-Kansas City PILF
U of Montana PILC
U of Nebraska-Lincoln EJS
U of North Carolina PILF
U of Oregon LSPIF
U of the Pacific PLSS
U of Pennsylvania EJP
U of Pittsburgh PLLSF
U of San Diego MHPILF
U of San Francisco PILF
U of South Carolina PILS
U of Southern California PILF
U of Tennessee APIL
U of Texas TLF
U of Toledo SPILF
U of Utah PILF
U of Virginia SFF
U of Wisconsin PILF
Valparaiso EJA
Vanderbilt PISF
Vermont EJP
Villanova PILS
Wake Forest PILO
Washburn APIL
Washington Univ. PBLA
West Virginia FLPI
Whittier PILF
William and Mary PSF
Yale Initiative for PIL & SFF

Founded in 1986 by a handful of law students, NAPIL today is a national coalition of 119 grassroots law student groups working to inspire, prepare and create opportunities for lawyers to dedicate their professional lives to public service. Our projects include:

GRANTS AND INTERNSHIPS By pledging a percentage of their summer or post-graduate earnings, law students and graduates provide essential funding for summer internships with public interest organizations and seed money for innovative new projects. NAPIL was established to develop and strengthen student-funded fellowship programs nationwide, and our efforts are producing solid results. Supplemented by NAPIL's law firm fundraising campaign, known as *The Public Service Challenge*, NAPIL member groups last year disbursed more than \$1.6 million in grants to fund more than 600 public interest legal internships with legal services offices, civil rights organizations, consumer and environmental advocates and other public interest organizations.

CURRICULAR REFORM NAPIL advocates curricular innovations designed to educate students about the inequities in our legal system and to instill in students a commitment to perform pro bono work. In addition, NAPIL provides technical assistance and advice on setting up creative volunteer community service projects.

NAPIL FELLOWSHIPS FOR EQUAL JUSTICE NAPIL has established a post-graduate fellowship program to enable lawyers and graduating law students to develop and implement innovative public interest projects. The first group of Fellows, chosen in February 1993, will work in areas of critical need, such as environmental racism, domestic violence, home equity fraud and the rights of gay and lesbian youth, recent Vietnamese immigrants, African-American people who are HIV-positive and Native American children.

LOAN REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE Loan repayment assistance programs (LRAPs) have been developed on many law school campuses and in several states to alleviate the debt burden of graduates taking low-paying public interest jobs. NAPIL is continuing to work with students, legal organizations and bar associations to establish new LRAPs and to improve existing ones.

PUBLIC INTEREST CAREERS NAPIL assists students and career counselors in improving public interest placement resources. Our efforts include developing materials and programs for public interest career services and advocating public interest coordinators. NAPIL produces a series of career services publications that are widely distributed on law school campuses. In addition, a national public interest career fair sponsored jointly by NAPIL and the National Association for Law Placement (NALP) annually draws an attendance of more than 1,200 law students and employers. Finally, NAPIL offers extensive programming on law school campuses and at NALP conferences.

CONFERENCE AND REGIONAL TRAININGS Each October, NAPIL sponsors a National Public Interest Law Student Conference to bring together hundreds of law students, employers and educators to honor past achievements, share ideas and set a law student public interest agenda. Finally, NAPIL sponsors a series of regional training sessions geared to law students, to aid them in their on-campus fundraising efforts.

Law School Public Service Graduation Requirements

PRO BONO REQUIREMENTS

COLUMBIA LAW SCHOOL

The establishment of a public service requirement was approved by a faculty vote during the fall 1992 semester. Under the requirement, which will take effect with the graduating class of 1996, students will be required to complete 40 hours of public interest legal work without compensation or school credit during their second and third years.

Recognizing the professional responsibility shared by every lawyer to help those locked out of the legal system, the law schools listed here have adopted specific graduation requirements to educate students about their future professional obligations and to inspire students to perform pro bono work throughout their legal careers.

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

Students must complete a total of 20 hours of pro bono work in their second and third years. FSU defines pro bono as uncompensated legal work on behalf of indigent individuals, members of a disadvantaged minority, or victims of discrimination. Work for government agencies other than prosecutors or public defenders is included in this definition.

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII W. S. RICHARDSON SCHOOL OF LAW

Starting with the class of 1995, students will be required to perform 60 hours of law-related public service work before graduation. The work must be unpaid and not for academic credit.

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE SCHOOL OF LAW

Students are required to perform 30 hours of professional public service after they have earned two-thirds of the credit hours required for graduation. As defined by the law school, public service includes poverty law, civil rights law, public rights law, charitable organization representation, and the administration of justice.

LOYOLA LAW SCHOOL, LOS ANGELES

The faculty curriculum committee voted in the fall of 1992 to establish a public service requirement to take effect with the class entering in the fall of 1994. Under the tentative program guidelines approved by the faculty, students will be responsible for performing 40 hours of law-related work before they graduate. A faculty task force has been charged with defining the program's specific requirements.

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA LAW SCHOOL

In their second and third years, students must perform a total of 70 hours of public service, defined as unpaid, non-clerical, law-related work for non-profit organizations, public interest law firms, legal aid offices, pro bono projects, or government agencies.

SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

Starting with the class entering in the fall of 1994, students will be required to perform 30 hours of pro bono work in their second and third years. Student placements will be provided by expanding the law school's pre-existing voluntary pro bono program. Faculty members also will be required to commit themselves to a commensurate effort at providing pro bono work.

STETSON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW

Students entering the law school after January 1992 must perform 10 hours of public service in their second and third years. The work need not be law-related, but the supervising organization and the proposed project or activity must be approved by the law school. In addition, all full-time faculty members must fulfill a 10-hour annual public service requirement.

TOURO COLLEGE JACOB D. FUCHSBERG LAW CENTER

Touro students may satisfy a public service graduation requirement in one of three ways. They may participate in a qualifying clinic, complete a qualifying academic course, or perform 20 hours of pro bono work. Pro bono is defined as addressing, directly or indirectly, the legal needs of the poor or the traditionally underrepresented.

TULANE LAW SCHOOL

During their second and third years, students must perform 20 hours of pro bono work, which must be substantially related to the provision of legal services to the poor.

VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

Students must perform 20 hours of pro bono work after completing their second year. Pro bono is defined as the provision of legal assistance to indigent clients.

WESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW - FULLERTON, CA, CAMPUS

Beginning with the entering class of 1993, upper-level students will be required to perform 20 hours of pro bono work as a condition of graduation. The work may be performed either for a local public interest or community organization or through the law school's legal clinic.

OTHER TYPES OF PUBLIC SERVICE REQUIREMENTS

CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK LAW SCHOOL AT QUEENS COLLEGE

With required courses such as Law and Family Relations and Responsibility for Injurious Conduct (replacing Torts), CUNY's curriculum is designed to produce lawyers concerned with their responsibilities to society and to the public interest. In their third year, students have the choice to focus on either intensive clinical work or such concentrations as Equality and Inequality and the Role of Lawyers; Housing and Urban Development; or Environmental Law.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA SCHOOL OF LAW

In their second and third years, students must complete 15 credit hours of clinical work at one of the school's five clinics: Housing/Consumer; HIV-AIDS; Public Entitlements; Legislation; or Government Accountability. As with CUNY Law School, the curriculum of DC School of Law is designed to provide all students with a solid foundation in public interest law.

LOYOLA—NEW ORLEANS SCHOOL OF LAW

Loyola students are required to take a two credit-hour poverty law course in their third year. As part of the course, students visit local agencies and programs that serve the disadvantaged of New Orleans, and write short reflections on these visits. The Loyola campus is the site of the Gillis Long Poverty Center, which provides support for the school's community service and skills training components.

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SCHOOL OF LAW

University of Maryland's Legal Theory and Practice program integrates professional responsibility into traditional law school coursework and involves students in at least one semester of low-income clinical work. All U.M. law students must participate in the LTP program.

UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA SCHOOL OF LAW

All third-year students are required to complete four credit-hours of clinical work in one of the school's clinics. Clinics include the Montana Defender Project, which provides legal assistance to prisoners.

UNIVERSITY OF PUERTO RICO SCHOOL OF LAW

To graduate, students must complete two semesters (three credit hours each) of work with clients of the school's Legal Assistance Clinic, which serves low-income families and individuals.

VERMONT LAW SCHOOL

Students must satisfy a "skills requirement" by participating in either a clinic-simulation course, an off-campus internship/externship, or the school's on-campus clinic, which specializes in disability law, family law, and landlord/tenant law.

NAPIL Publications on Law School Public Service Programs

- *Campaigning for Law School Pro Bono Requirements* -- Summer 1992 — \$5
- *Pro Bono in Law Schools* — October 1991 -- \$5 students; \$10 others
- *The NAPIL Connection* — \$25/year (seven issues)

If you have information on law school public service requirements not listed here, would like more detailed information about such requirements, or want to order NAPIL publications, please contact:

The National Association for Public Interest Law
1118 22nd Street NW, Third Floor, Washington DC 20037
tel 202-466-3686 fax 202-429-9766

Voluntary Law Student Public Service Programs

SCHOOL PROGRAMS

PRO BONO HONOR PROGRAM CALIFORNIA WESTERN SCHOOL OF LAW

Students who complete 35 hours of pro bono work (not including training time) are recognized with a notation on their transcripts and certificates of completion at graduation. Student volunteers are placed with sponsoring organizations through the San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program. The law school also holds an annual Pro Bono Fair, at which students are introduced to representatives of area volunteer organizations and attorneys engaged in pro bono work.

At many law schools that do not have public service graduation requirements, there are nevertheless many avenues available to students looking for public service opportunities. Some of these programs are sponsored by the schools themselves; others by student organizations or the local bar. This list describes some of the most notable examples of such programs.

VOLUNTEER LAWYERS FOR THE POOR UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI COLLEGE OF LAW

Students who enroll in Volunteer Lawyers for the Poor (VLP) are assigned to work with local attorneys on family or housing law cases. Before they begin work, the students attend a series of workshops to familiarize them with the area of law with which they will be dealing. The program is administered by the local Legal Aid Society, with support from the law school. Last year, 85 students participated in the program.

GEORGETOWN OUTREACH (GO!) GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER

This program, initiated by four first-year students in 1990, matches Georgetown law students with community organizations in the Washington DC area that need volunteers. The program also organizes special projects, such as a Volunteer Day, designed to encourage law students and faculty to get involved.

PULSE (PROVIDING UNPAID LEGAL SERVICES) HARVARD LAW SCHOOL

Under the PULSE program, students are provided with a manual describing participating employers and the projects to which they would assign student volunteers. The 1991/92 PULSE Manual lists 31 participating organizations and projects. The Harvard Public Interest Placement Advisor assists students in making contact with employers, and requires students to report on their experience. Students also may contact employers directly.

GUARDIAN AD LITEM PROGRAM UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI SCHOOL OF LAW

In 1990, the Public Interest Law Organization, a student group, developed a voluntary public service training and placement program through the Miami Guardian Ad Litem Project. The program trains and certifies law students to serve as court-appointed service attorneys in the juvenile court system. To train the student volunteers, a special program was developed for the law school by the GAL project.

**PUBLIC INTEREST LAW CLINIC (PILC)
UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL OF LAW**

PILC coordinates the placement of law student volunteers with local attorneys and public interest organizations in northeastern Mississippi. Administered by students, PILC is funded by student fees and grants from bar and IOLTA foundations.

**PRO BONO PROGRAM
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA SCHOOL OF LAW**

USC's program, which started in 1989, places law student volunteers with local attorneys and public interest organizations. Funded through an IOLTA grant from the South Carolina Bar Foundation, the program is administered by the law school and guided by a board composed of students. Last year, more than 100 students from each law school class participated.

**VOLUNTEER LAW STUDENTS AND LAWYERS, INC.
TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW**

Funded by the Texas Equal Access to Justice Foundation and supported by the Lubbock County Bar Association and Texas Tech Law School, VLSSL provides legal assistance to low-income people in Lubbock County. Faculty members and local attorneys staff the program's office as volunteers, and volunteer law students assist in the preparation of cases or rendering of legal assistance.

STATEWIDE PUBLIC SERVICE PROGRAMS

MINNESOTA JUSTICE FOUNDATION

The Minnesota Justice Foundation (MJF) operates three distinct pro bono projects for students at the three law schools in the state: Hamline University School of Law, the University of Minnesota Law School, and William Mitchell College of Law. In the *Pro Bono Research Project*, attorneys handling pro bono cases can get student research assistance by filling out research request forms and sending them to MJF, which matches the requests with student volunteers. In the *Pro Bono Assistant Project*, students are matched with private practice attorneys volunteering at legal services clinics. The *Pro Bono Intern Program* is designed to provide students with a more in-depth volunteer experience. Student volunteers are assigned to public interest law offices for a semester or an academic year. MJF is a non-profit organization with a full-time executive director and administrative assistant. It is funded by grants from foundations, bar associations, and law firms.

PRO BONO STUDENTS (P*B*S) OF NEW YORK

P*B*S matches law student volunteers with public interest organizations across the state of New York by means of an employer database. Funded by a grant from the New York IOLA Fund and administered by the Root-Tilden-Snow Scholarship Program at New York University School of Law, P*B*S matches students from law schools in New York state with volunteer opportunities in areas of law that interest the students.

NAPIL PUBLICATIONS ON LAW SCHOOL PUBLIC SERVICE PROGRAMS

- *Campaigning for Law School Pro Bono Requirements* — August 1990 — \$5
- *Pro Bono in Law Schools (draft)* — August 1991 -- \$5
- *The NAPIL Connection* — \$25/year (seven issues)

If you have information on law school public service programs not included on this list, would like more detailed information about such programs, or want to order NAPIL publications, please contact:

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Loan Repayment Assistance Programs

STATE PROGRAMS

ARIZONA The Law School Loan Forgiveness Program of the Arizona Bar Foundation distributed benefits to six lawyers in 1991, the first year of the program and the last year for which figures are available. Contact: David A. Williams at the Arizona Bar Foundation, 602-252-4804.

FLORIDA A statewide loan forgiveness program funded by the Interest On Trust Accounts Program of the Florida Bar Foundation in 1992 distributed benefits to 21

lawyers working in low-paying public interest or public service jobs. Contact: Catherine A. Perry at the Florida IOTA Program, 407-843-0045.

MARYLAND The Maryland state legislature in 1988 established the first state loan repayment assistance program in the country. In 1992 the program provided assistance to 28 attorneys working in Maryland who received graduate, professional, or undergraduate degrees from a Maryland college or university. This program is not limited to attorneys or to legal jobs. Contact: Lula Caldwell at the Maryland State Scholarship Administration, 410-974-5370.

MINNESOTA The Minnesota Loan Repayment Assistance Program, incorporated in 1991, is a joint project of the Minnesota Bar Association, three Minnesota law schools, and the Minnesota Justice Foundation. In 1992, the program provided more than \$38,000 in benefits to 11 public interest attorneys. Contact: Laura Lipkin, 612-673-6315.

NORTH CAROLINA The North Carolina Legal Education Assistance Foundation was formed in 1989 to provide loan repayment assistance to North Carolina attorneys working in public interest or public service areas. In 1992, the program distributed benefits to six lawyers. Contact: Lisa Brachman at NCLEAF, 919-856-0827.

TENNESSEE The Tennessee Bar Foundation IOLTA Program administers a loan forgiveness stipend program that awards two-year stipends to public interest organizations within the state, with the stipulation that the organizations use the funds to match loan repayment obligations (up to \$200 per month) of newly hired attorneys. In 1992, the program provided benefits to four recipients. Contact: Barri E. Bernstein at the TN IOLTA program, 615-242-1531.

In a number of other states, proposals for loan forgiveness programs are under consideration by bar or IOLTA foundations or state legislatures.

Educational debt is a great killer of dreams. These days, when law students commonly must incur debt loads of \$40,000 or more to finance their educations, many are finding it impossible to survive at entry-level public service pay scales. That is why NAPIL has made the promotion of loan repayment assistance programs (LRAPs) a top priority. Our campaign is bearing fruit, as this fact sheet shows. The number of law schools that have adopted LRAPs has grown tremendously since 1986, when NAPIL began its advocacy efforts. We are working hard to make sure the trend continues.

LAW SCHOOL PROGRAMS

The following 44 law schools have established loan repayment assistance programs.

American University
Boston College
Brooklyn University
University of California at Berkeley
University of California at Davis
University of California at Hastings
Case Western Reserve University
University of Chicago
Columbia University
Cornell University
City University of New York
Duke University
Emory University
Fordham University
Franklin Pierce Law Center
Georgetown University
Golden Gate University
Hamline University
Harvard University
Hofstra University
Illinois Institute of Technology
Loyola Law School in Los Angeles
University of Michigan
New York University
Northeastern University

Northwestern University
University of Notre Dame
Nova University
Ohio State University*
University of Pennsylvania
University of San Francisco*
Santa Clara University
University of Southern California
Southern Methodist University
Southwestern University
Stanford University
Suffolk University
Temple University
Tulane University
Valparaiso University
Vanderbilt University
University of Virginia
University of Washington
Yale University

* Pilot Programs

There are campaigns currently underway at several additional law schools aimed at implementing loan forgiveness programs.

LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAMS

The following offices provide some type of loan deferral or loan forgiveness assistance to qualifying employees:

Atlanta Legal Aid Society — 404-524-5811
Central Arkansas Legal Services — 501-376-3423
Evergreen Legal Services — 206-464-5933
Georgia Legal Services Program — 404-656-6021
Jacksonville Area (FL) Legal Aid, Inc. — 904-356-8371

Legal Aid Service of Multnomah County (OR) —
503-224-4086
Legal Services of Eastern Michigan — 313-234-2621
U.S. Public Interest Research Group — 202-546-9707
Various State PIRGs — 617-292-4800

NAPIL LOAN REPAYMENT PUBLICATIONS

- *An Action Manual for Loan Repayment Assistance* — published by NAPIL and the American Bar Association Law Student Division — \$5 students; \$10 others
- *Loan Repayment Assistance Program Report, 1991/92* — \$15
- *The NAPIL Connection* — \$25/year (seven issues)

If you have information on a loan repayment program not included on this list, would like more detailed information about loan repayment programs, or want to order NAPIL publications, please contact:

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American EJF
Arizona State OPIL
Boston College PILF
Boston Univ. PIP
Brigham Young PILS
Brooklyn Law School LSPI
California Western APIL
Capital PILF
Case Western Reserve SPILF
Catholic SPIL
Columbia PILF
Cornell PILU
DePaul PILA
Dickinson PILF
Duke SFF
Emory PIC
Florida State PPS
Fordham SFF
Franklin Pierce PIC
George Mason APIL
George Washington EJF
Georgetown EJF
Golden Gate PILF
Gonzaga PILP
Harvard SFF
Hofstra PJF
Howard PILS
IIT Chicago Kent KJF
Indiana-Bloomington PILF
Indiana-Indianapolis APIL
John Marshall PILC
Lewis & Clark PILP
Loyola-Chicago PILS
Loyola-New Orleans PILG
Minnesota Justice Foundation
New England School of Law PILA
New York Law School PIC
New York University PILF
Northeastern CISP
Northwestern SFFIF
Notre Dame PILF
Nova PILON
Ohio State SFF
Pace PILSO
Pepperdine APIL
Rutgers-Camden APIL
Rutgers-Newark PILF
Saint Louis Univ. PILG
Santa Clara PILF
Seton Hall PILF
Southwestern PILC
Stetson PSF
SUNY-Buffalo PILP
Syracuse GO
Temple AIC
Touro PILOT
Tulane PILF
U of Arizona PILO
U of Baltimore SPI
U of Bridgeport PILP
UC-Berkeley BLF
UC-Davis KHLF
UC-Hastings PILF
UCLA PILF
U of Chicago CLF
U of Connecticut PILG
U of Denver PILG
U of Florida APIL
U of Georgia EJF
U of Hawaii APIL
U of Houston PILO
U of Illinois PILF
U of Iowa EJF
U of Maine APIL
U of Maryland PILP
U of Miami PILG
U of Michigan SFF
U of Mississippi PILC
U of Missouri-Columbia EJF
U of Missouri-Kansas City PILF
U of Montana PILC
U of Nebraska-Lincoln EJS
U of North Carolina PILF
U of Oregon LSPIF
U of the Pacific PLSS
U of Pennsylvania EJF
U of Pittsburgh PLLSF
U of San Diego MHPILF
U of San Francisco PILF
U of South Carolina PILS
U of Southern California PILF
U of Tennessee APIL
U of Texas TLF
U of Toledo SPILF
U of Utah PILF
U of Virginia SFF
U of Wisconsin PILF
Valparaiso EJA
Vanderbilt PISF
Vermont EJF
Villanova PILS
Wake Forest PILO
Washburn APIL
Washington Univ. PBLA
West Virginia FLPI
Whittier PILF
William and Mary PSF
Yale Initiative for PIL & SFF

February 22, 1993

Robert Gordon
Office of National Service
Room 146
Old Executive Office Building
Washington, DC 20051

Dear Mr. Gordon:

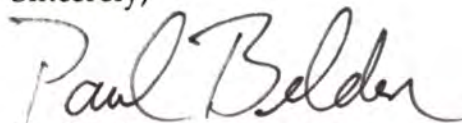
At the request of NAPIL Executive Director Kathleen A. Welch, I am forwarding to you copies of a letter and memorandum from Ms. Welch to Eli Segal dealing with loan repayment assistance programs for law students.

I am also enclosing the following supporting materials:

- Fact sheet on law school loan repayment assistance programs.
- Fact sheet on NAPIL, with publications list.
- 1992 Addendum to the 1991 Loan Repayment Assistance Program Report, a table of existing programs.
- An Action Manual for Loan Repayment Assistance - Second Edition.
- Pro Bono in Law Schools, a publication detailing ten model law school community service programs.
- Fall 1991 issue of *The NAPIL Close-Up*, a special issue of our newsletter dealing with loan repayment programs.
- List of NAPIL Equal Justice Fellows, 1993/94.
- List of Semi-Finalists for NAPIL Fellowships for Equal Justice.
- NAPIL Fellowships for Equal Justice brochure.

Please call if you have any questions or if any of the promised materials are missing. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Paul Belden
Publications Coordinator

NAPIL

The National Association for Public Interest Law

1118 22nd Street NW, Third Floor

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Student Programs

American EIT
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Boston Univ. PIP
Brigham Young PIS
Brooklyn Law School LSP
California Western APIL
Capital PLE
Case Western Reserve SPIL
Catholic STL
Columbia PLE
Cornell PLE
DePaul PLE
Dickinson PLE
Duke SFF
Emory PLE
Florida State PIS
Fordham SFF
Franklin Pierce PLE
George Mason APIL
George Washington EIT
Georgetown EIT
Golden Gate PLE
Gonzaga PLE
Harvard SFF
Hofstra PLE
Howard PIS
IIT Chicago-Kent KIF
Indiana-Bloomington PLE
Indiana-Indianapolis APIL
John Marshall PLE
Lewis & Clark PLE
Loyola-Chicago PIS
Loyola-New Orleans PLE
Minnesota Justice Foundation
New England School of Law PLE
New York Law School PLE
New York University PLE
Northwestern CSE
Northwestern SFF
Notre Dame PLE
Nova PLEON
Ohio State SFF
Pace PLE
Pepperdine APIL
Rutgers-Camden APIL
Rutgers-Newark PLE
Saint Louis Univ. PLE
Santa Clara PLE
Seton Hall PLE
Southwestern PLE
Syracuse PLE
SUNY-Buffalo PLE
Syracuse CLE
Temple ALP
Tougaloo PLE
Tulane PLE
U. of Arizona PLE
U. of Baltimore SFF
U. of Bridgeport PLE
U.C. Berkeley BLP
U.C. Davis KHLF
U.C. Hastings PLE
UCLA PLE
U. of Chicago CLE
U. of Connecticut PLE
U. of Denver PLE
U. of Florida APIL
U. of Georgia EIT
U. of Hawaii APIL
U. of Houston PLE
U. of Illinois PLE
U. of Iowa EIT
U. of Maine APIL
U. of Maryland PLE
U. of Miami PLE
U. of Michigan SFF
U. of Mississippi PLE
U. of Missouri Columbia EIT
U. of Missouri Kansas City PLE
U. of Nebraska PLE
U. of North Carolina PLE
U. of Oregon SFF
U. of the Pacific PLE
U. of Pennsylvania EIT
U. of Pittsburgh PLE
U. of San Diego MHLF
U. of San Francisco PLE
U. of South Carolina PLE
U. of Southern California PLE
U. of Tennessee APIL
U. of Texas EIT
U. of Toledo SFF
U. of Utah PLE
U. of Virginia SFF
U. of Wisconsin PLE
Vanderbilt PLE
Vermont EIT
Villanova PLE
Wake Forest PLE
Washington APIL
Washington & Lee PLE
West Virginia PLE
Widener PLE
William and Mary PLE
Yale Initiative for PLE & SFF

February 22, 1993

Eli Segal

Director of the Office of National Service

Room 146

Old Executive Office Building

Washington, DC 25001

Dear Mr. Segal:

I appreciated the opportunity to speak with you at the meeting of the Working Group on Youth Service Policy earlier this month. Your comments and insights about the development of President Clinton's national service initiative were extremely helpful, and I commend your office for the work that has been done thus far.

I am writing on behalf of thousands of law students throughout the country to urge you to consider law students and new lawyers as eligible participants in the national service program. Confronted with enormous educational debt burdens and exceptionally low public service salaries, new attorneys are finding it impossible to translate their commitment to service into viable careers serving the millions of Americans whose legal needs are unmet. As I'm certain that you are aware, the shortage of legal services for poor people has reached crisis proportions. Studies conducted by the American Bar Association have revealed that each year poor people face 19 million civil legal problems for which they cannot find legal assistance. Thousands of law students graduate each year with a commitment to serving those needs, yet without some form of debt relief, most are forced to forgo their dreams of service.

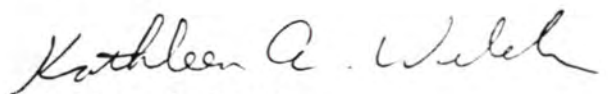
I have enclosed a memorandum which describes in more detail two innovative existing programs designed to provide loan repayment assistance and new service opportunities for law graduates. The purpose of the memorandum and the enclosed materials is to: (1) explain how educational loan debt is preventing recent law graduates from serving disadvantaged communities; (2) inform the Office of National Service of existing loan repayment assistance programs that could serve as models for the inclusion of law school debt in the national service initiative; and (3) encourage the creation of service opportunities for law students and new attorneys.

Eli Segal
February 22, 1993
Page 2

The innovative loan repayment and service programs described in the accompanying memorandum are the result of a campaign organized and led by the student leaders of the National Association for Public Interest Law (NAPIL), a coalition of student public service groups currently active on 118 law school campuses. Through student leadership training, a national summer internship program, community service projects, curricular reform campaigns at law schools, and an annual public service career fair and conference, NAPIL is developing the next generation of public service leaders and building an exciting new movement for social justice. In the last year alone, NAPIL students raised over \$1.6 million from their peers to fund more than 600 summer and full-time public service positions.

The law student public service movement has been energized and encouraged by President Clinton's commitment to a national plan for public service. As leaders of this movement, we are eager to offer assistance in developing the national initiative. I will contact your office next week to see if we can provide additional information or be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Kathleen A. Welch".

Kathleen A. Welch
Executive Director

NAPIL

The National Association for Public Interest Law

1118 22nd Street NW, Third Floor

Washington DC 20037

tel 202-466-3686 fax 202-429-9766

Student Programs

American EIT
Arizona State OPI
Boston College PIL
Boston Univ. PIL
Brigham Young PIL
Brooklyn Law School LSP
California Western APIL
Capital PIL
Case Western Reserve SPIL
Catholic SPIL
Columbia PIL
Cornell PIL
DePaul PIL
Dickinson PIL
Duke SFF
Emory PK
Florida State PIS
Fordham SFF
Franklin Pierce PK
George Mason APIL
George Washington EIT
Georgetown EIT
Golden Gate PIL
Gonzaga PIL
Harvard SFF
Hobart PIL
Howard PIL
IIT Chicago-Kent KIL
Indiana-Bloomington PIL
Indiana-Indianapolis APIL
John Marshall PIL
Lewis & Clark PIL
Loyola-Chicago PIL
Loyola-New Orleans PIL
Minnesota Justice Foundation
New England School of Law PIL
New York Law School PK
New York University PIL
Northeastern CSE
Northwestern SFF
Notre Dame PIL
Nova PILON
Ohio State SFF
Pace PILS
Pepperdine APIL
Rutgers-Camden APIL
Rutgers-Newark PIL
Saint Louis Univ. PIL
Santa Clara PIL
Seattle PIL
Southwestern PIL
Stetson PIL
SUNY-Buffalo PIL
Syracuse CO
Temple AL
Touro PILCO
Tulane PIL
U of Arizona PIL
U of Baltimore SPIL
U of Bridgeport PIL
UC-Berkeley BL
UC-Davis KHL
UC-Hastings PIL
UCLA PIL
U of Chicago CL
U of Connecticut PIL
U of Denver PIL
U of Florida APIL
U of Georgia EIT
U of Hawaii APIL
U of Houston PIL
U of Illinois EIT
U of Iowa EIT
U of Maine APIL
U of Maryland PIL
U of Miami PIL
U of Michigan SFF
U of Mississippi PIL
U of Missouri Columbia EIT
U of Missouri-Kansas City PIL
U of Montana PIL
U of Nebraska-Lincoln EIT
U of North Carolina PIL
U of Oregon LSP
U of the Pacific PIL
U of Pennsylvania EIT
U of Pittsburgh EIT
U of San Diego MHL
U of San Francisco PIL
U of South Carolina PIL
U of Southern California PIL
U of Tennessee APIL
U of Texas PIL
U of Toledo SFF
U of Utah PIL
U of Virginia SFF
U of Wisconsin PIL
Valparaiso EIT
Vanderbilt PIL
Vermont EIT
Villanova PIL
Wake Forest PIL
Washington APIL
Washington Univ. PBIA
West Virginia EIT
Whitman PIL
William and Mary PIL
Yale Initiative for PIL & SFF

TO: Eli Segal
Office of National Service

FROM: Kathleen A. Welch, Executive Director
National Association for Public Interest Law

DATE: February 22, 1993

RE: Service Opportunities and Debt Relief for Law School
Graduates Providing Legal Assistance to Underserved
Communities

SUMMARY

THE PROBLEM

Our legal system is in crisis. There are more than 700,000 lawyers in the United States, yet a persistent shortage of low-income legal services deprives millions of Americans access to the legal services they need to secure such basic human requirements as food, shelter, and medical services. An American Bar Association (ABA) survey reported in 1989 that each year poor people face a total of 19 million civil legal problems for which they cannot find legal assistance. In any given year, 80 percent of the legal needs of the impoverished go unaddressed, according to the same study.

There are simply not enough attorneys serving the poor, the homeless, the elderly, children, people with disabilities, the environment, and others who cannot afford representation. And the problem is not going away. In a 1992 survey conducted by NAPIL and the National Legal Aid and Defender Association, a significant number of legal services and public interest organizations across the country reported that they were having difficulty recruiting and retaining talented attorneys, especially members of minority and other disadvantaged groups.

And yet, at the same time, thousands of talented law students graduate each year from law school with a desire to dedicate their careers to public service.

The last half decade has seen interest in public service soar among law students, due largely to the organizing efforts of student leaders of the NAPIL coalition. More law students than ever before are founding or joining public service groups, creating and participating in campus community service programs, and raising money to fund summer and full-time positions with public service organizations.

Ultimately, however, these students are finding it very difficult, in many cases impossible, to translate their commitment to public service into viable public service careers. And one of the largest obstacles that they are confronting is the necessity of paying off their educational debt. Entry-level salaries with most public service organizations are extremely low; starting salaries for most legal services attorneys in major metropolitan areas are in the low \$20s. There is simply no way that a recent law graduate carrying an educational debt load of \$40,000 -- and debt loads of \$80,000 are by no means uncommon -- can survive on such a low salary.

LAW STUDENTS WORKING TOWARD A SOLUTION

Since its founding in 1986, NAPIL has organized a grassroots student movement aimed at developing innovative solutions that encourage and enable law students to engage in community service. Our projects (more fully described in the enclosed materials) include fundraising for community service internships, organizing a national public service job fair, training campus leaders in the creation of new service projects, maintaining a clearinghouse of student service programs, and advocating for the creation of loan repayment assistance programs (LRAPs) for law graduates working in low-paying public service jobs. NAPIL student member organizations have been organized at 118 law school campuses nationwide.

LOAN REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE FOR LAW STUDENTS

The development of a widely implemented LRAP model has proven to be one of NAPIL's most important and successful efforts. These programs operate by providing financial assistance to law school graduates who are doing public service work and whose income and debt burden combine to make them eligible for benefits. Because of their effectiveness and low cost, the programs' popularity among both law students and law school administrators has grown tremendously in recent years. Since 1986, the year that NAPIL began its advocacy campaign, the number of law schools offering loan repayment assistance to graduates has increased from five to 44, and the number of regional LRAPs from zero to seven.

Nearly all privately funded LRAPs follow one of two structural models. In the first model, an LRAP provides loans to eligible graduates to be used in making their debt service payments. These loans are then forgiven at an established rate per year in which the graduate remains in public service employment (while also meeting other eligibility

criteria). In the second model, an LRAP provides outright grants to eligible graduates, who then are required to apply the grants to their monthly debt payments. Typically, both types of LRAPs contain specific eligibility requirements relating to participants' type of employment (most programs exclude private firm and/or government employment, for example), income, and debt load.

Experimentation has produced great diversity in program specifics, including the rates at which debt is forgiven and the types of loans covered by programs. NAPIL has compiled detailed information on program structures, including statistics on the costs entailed per participant, in the enclosed *NAPIL Loan Repayment Assistance Program Report*.

Limitations of current loan repayment assistance models. Although privately funded LRAPs have enabled hundreds of attorneys to pursue public interest careers, the concept has not yet achieved its full potential. Only 44 of 176 ABA-accredited law schools currently have LRAPs, and some of the existing LRAPs fail to cover all types of educational loans. In addition, some law schools limit the funds allocated to their LRAPs; when the money runs out, benefits are curtailed at those schools without regard to the number of deserving and eligible graduates left out of the program. Other programs depend for their survival upon student and administration annual fundraising efforts. In such cases, eligible graduates live with the knowledge that their loan repayment benefits may not survive a poor fundraising year.

LRAPs also suffer decreased effectiveness from the fact that the Internal Revenue Service considers privately provided loan repayment benefits to be taxable income. This situation has severely damaged LRAPs' ability to assist graduates who are struggling to make ends meet while working in low-paying jobs.

The need for national loan repayment. The concept of loan repayment for service offers great potential for channeling bright and talented attorneys into careers in public service. In 1991 alone, private LRAPs benefitted more than 700 attorneys working in public service jobs. Nevertheless, the limited availability of loan repayment assistance excludes thousands of dedicated law students and graduates from public service careers.

The legal profession's responsibility to perform community service, whether by working with a public service organization or by providing *pro bono* service, has guided the law student public interest movement. Energized and encouraged by President Clinton's strong commitment to community service, the student leaders of this movement are eager to assist the Office of National Service as you develop a national plan for community service. We believe debt relief for lawyers dedicated to public service should be an integral part of your plan, and we hope that you will look to existing LRAPs as models for how to include law students in the national service program. In addition, we urge you to ensure that in the future, loan repayment assistance benefits will not be deemed taxable income.

CREATING SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES FOR LAW STUDENTS AND NEW ATTORNEYS

The dramatic cuts in federal funding for the Legal Services Corporation over the last twelve years have severely limited the number of internship and full-time service opportunities for law students and lawyers dedicated to representing the poor. In response to the crisis in legal services, in just seven years, NAPIL student members have raised more than \$6 million from their law school peers to fund 2,400 summer internship positions providing free legal assistance.

NAPIL has recently launched another innovative project, *NAPIL Fellowships for Equal Justice*, a post-graduate fellowship program designed to address the scarcity of entry-level public interest law positions. In essence a domestic Peace Corps for lawyers, this project seeks to cultivate a new generation of public service lawyers and to provide desperately needed legal services in underserved areas.

In our inaugural competition, we received over 300 applications this past year for only seven fellowships. The quality of the applicants and their proposals was extremely impressive. Applicants are bright, enthusiastic, and idealistic graduating law students and lawyers who have creative ideas and a commitment to providing legal services to people who are otherwise unrepresented. Our applicants came from 38 states and 122 law schools, and proposed working with 234 sponsoring organizations. Many of the creative strategies proposed by applicants are designed to have a substantial impact on the communities they serve, whether it is through education, advocacy, or legal representation. We selected the first class of Equal Justice Fellows this month, and I have enclosed a list of the inaugural class of fellows. I have also enclosed a list of the 45 semi-finalists with a one-sentence description of their proposed project, along with a list of the inaugural class of fellows.

Over the next few years, we hope to develop a constellation of local, regional, and national fellowships sponsored by public and private sources, including corporations, law firms, bar associations, individuals, and foundations. As NAPIL has demonstrated, there is a huge number of law students graduating each year who are ready and able to address the critical issues of our time. Programs like *NAPIL Fellowships for Equal Justice* and President Clinton's national service initiative offer the promise of building bridges between those who want to serve and the communities who need assistance.

We strongly encourage you to consider including law graduates and public interest law organizations for some of the "service slots" in the first year of the national service program. With a strong national network of civil legal services programs and other public interest organizations already in place, it would be very easy to create placements for law graduates. We would welcome the opportunity to work with your office to discuss existing placement models, as well as new ideas for involving law students and graduates in President Clinton's call to service.

We commend you and your staff for the important work you are doing to develop the national service program.

Enclosures:

- Fact sheet on law school loan repayment assistance programs.
- Fact sheet on NAPIL, with publications list.
- *Loan Repayment Assistance Program Report 1991*, with 1992 Addendum.
- *An Action Manual for Loan Assistance - 2nd Edition*.
- *Pro Bono in Law Schools*, a publication detailing ten model law school community service programs.
- Fall 1991 issue of *The NAPIL Close-Up*, a special issue of our newsletter dealing with loan repayment programs.
- List of NAPIL *Equal Justice Fellows*, 1993-94.
- List of Semi-Finalists for *NAPIL Fellowships for Equal Justice*.
- *NAPIL Fellowships for Equal Justice* brochure.

cc: Robert Gordon, Office of National Service
Shirley Sagawa, White House Domestic Policy Staff
Peter Edelman, Georgetown Law School

NAPIL

The National Association for Public Interest Law

1118 22nd Street NW, Third Floor

Washington DC 20037

tel 202-466-3686 fax 202-429-9766

Student Programs

March 1, 1993

Eli Segal

Director of the Office of National Service

Room 146

Old Executive Office Building

Washington, DC 25001

Dear Mr. Segal,

It was a pleasure meeting you last Thursday at the NASCC reception. The excitement and hope continues to build as we in the service movement see more evidence of the president's plan to develop a national service program.

You and I discussed briefly the summer service programs that NAPIL and its member organizations coordinate and fund each year. NAPIL student member groups have been providing law students nationwide with opportunities to participate in a "Summer of Service" for seven years. Founded in 1986 by a small handful of students, today NAPIL is a coalition of 119 law student groups working on campuses to inspire, prepare and create opportunities for the next generation of dedicated public servants.

As I mentioned to you on Thursday, law students across the country raised more than \$1.6 million last year, funding more than 600 summer internships doing public service work. The money is raised through student initiated fundraising campaigns on law school campuses. Students are raising money from their classmates, faculty, and administrators to provide legal services to the poor, homeless, battered women, abused children, and environmental issues, just to name a few. Attached is a sample list of the organizations these students worked for last summer.

The work that the students do through their summer internships has an impact on many people's lives, people who otherwise might not have access to legal assistance. I have enclosed articles highlighting the work that previous grant recipients have done, and a list of some of the organizations students worked with last summer.

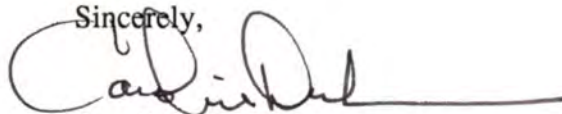
Also, I have enclosed another copy of a letter Kathleen Welch, NAPIL's executive director, sent to you last week concerning NAPIL's broad range of

American EJP
Arizona State OPIL
Boston College PILF
Boston Univ. PIP
Brigham Young PILS
Brooklyn Law School LSPI
California Western APIL
Capital PILF
Case Western Reserve SPILF
Catholic SPIL
Columbia PILF
Cornell PILU
DePaul PILA
Dickinson PILF
Duke SFF
Emory PIC
Florida State PPS
Fordham SSF
Franklin Pierce PIC
George Mason APIL
George Washington EJP
Georgetown EJP
Golden Gate PILF
Gonzaga PILP
Harvard SFF
Hofstra PJP
Howard PILS
IIT Chicago Kent KJP
Indiana-Bloomington PILF
Indiana-Indianapolis APIL
John Marshall PILC
Lewis & Clark PILP
Loyola-Chicago PILS
Loyola-New Orleans PILG
Minnesota Justice Foundation
New England School of Law PILA
New York Law School PIC
New York University PILF
Northeastern CISP
Northwestern SFPIL
Notre Dame PILF
Nova PILON
Ohio State SFF
Pace PILSO
Pepperdine APIL
Rutgers-Camden APIL
Rutgers-Newark PILF
Saint Louis Univ. PILG
Santa Clara PILF
Seton Hall PILF
Southwestern PILC
Stetson PSF
SUNY-Buffalo PILP
Syracuse GO
Temple AIC
Touro PILOT
Tulane PILF
U of Arizona PILO
U of Baltimore SPI
U of Bridgeport PILP
UC-Berkeley BLF
UC-Davis KILF
UC-Hastings PILF
UCLA PILF
U of Chicago CLF
U of Connecticut PILG
U of Denver PILG
U of Florida APIL
U of Georgia EJP
U of Hawaii APIL
U of Houston PILO
U of Illinois PILF
U of Iowa EJP
U of Maine APIL
U of Maryland PILP
U of Miami PILG
U of Michigan SFF
U of Mississippi PILC
U of Missouri-Columbia EJP
U of Missouri-Kansas City PILF
U of Montana PILC
U of Nebraska-Lincoln EJS
U of North Carolina PILF
U of Oregon LSPIF
U of the Pacific PLSS
U of Pennsylvania EJP
U of Pittsburgh PLLSF
U of San Diego MHPILF
U of San Francisco PILF
U of South Carolina PILS
U of Southern California PILF
U of Tennessee APIL
U of Texas TLF
U of Toledo SPILF
U of Utah PILF
U of Virginia SFF
U of Wisconsin PILF
Valparaiso EJA
Vanderbilt PISF
Vermont EJP
Villanova PILS
Wake Forest PILO
Washburn APIL
Washington Univ. PBLA
West Virginia FLPI
Whittier PILF
William and Mary PSF
Yale Initiative for PIL & SFF

p. 2
E. Segal
March 2, 1993

programs, including loan assistance programs and post-graduate fellowship programs.

Kathleen or I will contact you in the next week to discuss NAPIL's summer internships and other programs that fit into the president's national service plan.

Sincerely,

Caroline Durham
National Student Organizer

attachments

NAPIL

THE NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION FOR
PUBLIC INTEREST
LAW

Kathleen A. Welch
Executive Director

1118 22nd Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037
(202) 466-3686
FAX (202) 429-9766

SAMPLING OF NAPIL SUMMER INTERNSHIP PLACEMENTS, 1992

Alaska Public Defender, Anchorage, AK
Legal Services Center for Persons with Disabilities, Denver, CO
California Rural Legal Services, San Luis Obispo, CA
Mexican American Legal Defense & Education Fund, Los Angeles, CA
DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Washington, DC
Migrant Legal Action Program, Washington, DC
Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless, Washington, DC
Childrens' Advocacy Center, Tallahassee, FL
Refuge House, Tallahassee, FL
Catholic Social Services/ Immigration Services, Atlanta, GA
H.E.L.P. Legal Program, Davenport, IA
Idaho Legal Aid, Boise, ID
Cabrini Green Legal Aid Clinic, Chicago, IL
Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago, Chicago, IL
Legal Aid Society of Kenya, Nairobi, Kenya
Legal Services for Prisoners, Topeka, KS
Mental Health Advocacy, New Orleans, LA
YWCA Battered Women's and Rape Crisis Program, New Orleans, LA
Conservation Law Foundation of New England, Boston, MA
House of Ruth Battered Women's Shelter, Baltimore, MD
Legal Services for the Elderly, Lewiston, ME
Family Law Project, Ann Arbor, MI
Missouri State Division of Youth Services, Columbia, MO
Mississippi Capital Defense Resource Center, Jackson, MS
Montana Women's Agenda, Missoula, MT
Pamlico Sound Legal Services, New Bern, NC
New Hampshire Legal Assistance, Concord, NH
ACLU Children's Rights Project, New York, NY
Lawyers for Children, New York, NY
United Cerebral Palsy Association of New York State, New York, NY
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, New York, NY
International Legal Defense Counsel, Philadelphia, PA
Women's Law Project, Philadelphia, PA
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, Attorney General, Eagle Butte, SD
Rural Legal Services of Tennessee, Oak Ridge, TN
AIDS Services of Austin, TX
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Ankara, Turkey
Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, Salt Lake City, UT

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'Reaching for Social Justice' at the NAPIL Public Interest Law Student Conference!

The outstanding success of *Reaching for Social Justice*, the Eighth Annual NAPIL National Public Interest Law Student Conference, has cemented NAPIL's standing as the mainspring of the national public interest law student movement in this country.

By every measure, the 1992 NAPIL Conference surpassed all goals and expectations.

Cont. on page 6
See Conference



Fordham students have a lot to celebrate, having more than doubled their group's fundraising in a single year.

Career Fair '92 Draws More Than 1,000 Public Interest Students

More than a thousand law students and their résumés descended on the Georgetown University campus on October 16 for the Fifth Annual NALP/NAPIL National Public Interest Law Career Fair.

The students filled the ballroom of the Georgetown University Conference Center during the afternoon informal Table Talk session as they hustled to meet and talk with representatives of the 85 public interest organizations that participated.

The day-long fair ran smoothly with very few hitches, according to Mary Peckiconis, member services coordinator for the National Association for Law Placement, the fair's co-sponsor (along with NAPIL).

"It was the best-run career fair I've worked on," Peckiconis said.

Many employers were of the same opinion. "If we could attend only one career fair a year, it would without a doubt be the NALP/NAPIL Career Fair," said Collier McCoid, management assistant to the Oregon attorney general.

In between interviews, many students found the time to attend the various career-oriented panels that were an on-going feature of the day. These panels, which focused on criminal law, legislative and media advocacy, legal services practice, and other topics, invariably attracted standing-room-only crowds. Ω

Esther Lardent Named NAPIL Public Interest Advocate of the Year

Esther Lardent, chief consultant to the American Bar Association Postconviction Death Penalty Representation Project, has earned recognition from NAPIL as the Outstanding Public Interest Advocate of 1992.

Ms. Lardent, a graduate of the University of Chicago School of Law, has an impressive history of creating and managing innovative successful programs to alleviate the critical shortage of low-income legal services in our society. She accepted her award at NAPIL's Annual Banquet and Awards Ceremony on the evening of Saturday, October 17, in Washington, DC.

Since 1987, Ms. Lardent has led the national effort to increase

and improve the representation provided to prisoners on death row who are fighting for their lives. Prior to taking on her current responsibilities, she founded a program in Boston to recruit and train volunteer private attorneys to become effective pro bono advocates for the poor and for others shut out of the legal system.

Clinton Bamberger, currently a professor of law at the University of Maryland School of Law and a long-time leader of the public interest bar, introduced the honoree by recalling Ms. Lardent's Boston network of volunteers as "the largest and the best law firm in the city." Ms. Lardent's program has since become the standard model for voluntary pro bono recruitment programs. Ω

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More Law Firms Than Ever Accept The 'Challenge' to Support Students

by Jaime M. Grant
Director, Public Service Challenge

Helping law students gain hands-on experience in the world of public interest law is one of NAPIL's top priorities. This year, 66 law firms made it one of their top priorities as well by participating in NAPIL's Public Service Challenge. In its fourth year, the Challenge attracted sponsors and contributors to the program in record numbers. In addition, nearly 80 percent of last year's participating firms expressed a strong vote of confidence in the Challenge by renewing their membership.

The Public Service Challenge was established in 1988 to "challenge" law firms to support summer public interest internships through direct grants. Each year, law students conduct campus fundraising drives and qualify for Challenge funding from law firms based on their level of success. This partnership has raised awareness among students about pro bono responsibilities and public interest opportunities while securing a commitment from firms to help train and develop the next generation of public interest lawyers.

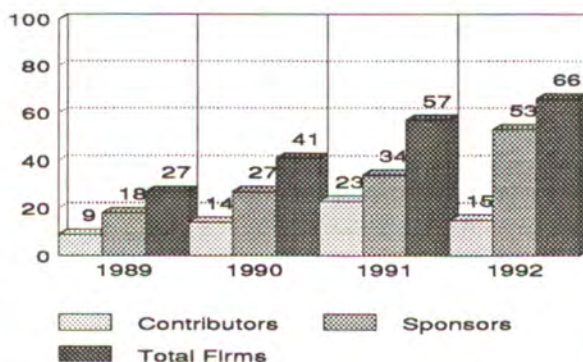
The Challenge, which invites firms to donate \$200 per summer associate, experienced an eight percent drop in total funding this year, as firms experienced recessionary cutbacks in their summer associate programs. More than \$160,000 has been received to date in gifts ranging from \$250 to \$10,000, with

gift levels dropping from the 1990-91 average of \$3,400 to \$2,400.

These funds have been distributed back to NAPIL student member groups to supplement their campus fundraising drives aimed at creating public interest employment opportunities. This year NAPIL students raised a total of more than \$1.6 million.

Last year, 86 groups qualified for Challenge funding by making good

Public Service Challenge
Participating Firms



faith efforts to raise funds from their peers through pledge drives, service auctions, and other events. This year, 99 student public interest law foundations qualified for Challenge grants, as NAPIL's campus organizing efforts took hold.

Those efforts have led to four straight years of growth in student fundraising (see the bar graph on page

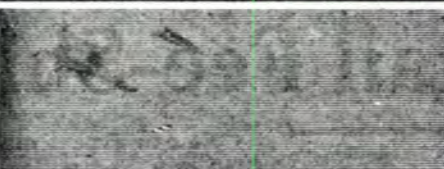
4). Besides fundraising, student organizers have taken on many other projects as well. They have set up pro bono programs on their campuses (see the profile of the Minnesota Justice Foundation on page 8); helped set up loan repayment assistance programs for graduates working in low-paying public interest jobs; and appeared before state legislatures to offer testimony on issues affecting low-income legal services. (See page 4 for an overview of the achievements of some NAPIL member groups.)

In the past year, law firms have been introduced to the activities of NAPIL student groups through a series of breakfast meetings that have become the hallmark of Challenge development efforts. This year, breakfast meetings in Boston, the District of Columbia, Austin, Houston, and Miami garnered 23 new contributors to the program. Panel presentations featuring managing partners, student grant recipients, founding contributors to the Challenge, and local public interest practitioners introduced the program to more than 100 prospective donors.

Presently, an aggressive fall schedule of breakfast meetings is being designed to ensure that Challenge growth keeps up with tremendous growth in student organizing and need. Ω

See Page 6 for a
List of Challenge Firms.

LAW SCHOOLS



BY KEN MYERS

To Raise Bucks for Pro Bono, Students Resort to Bake Sales

APPARENTLY, bake sales, auctions, casino nights and t-shirt sales, as fund-raising methods, are not limited to high school marching bands.

They are among the methods being used by law students around the country to pony up about \$1.7 million to fund about 700 public interest law internships this summer.

Of course, such traditionally Girl Scout-esque fund-raising methods account for only a small percentage of monies accumulated.

"Believe it or not, the bulk of the money is clearly from pledge drives and auctions," says Kathleen A. Welsh, executive director of the National Association for Public Interest Law, the Washington, D.C.-based umbrella group that coordinates student public interest groups at law schools. "The most exciting trend is that it is the students who are taking the lead in creating jobs in public interest law."

Karen A. Lash, assistant dean at the University of Southern California Law Center, agrees. "We've seen a real steady increase over the last five years and a lot of enthusiasm and activity by students," she says. "They're taking a lot of initiative."

As of six years ago, very few law school career services departments even had separate listings for public interest jobs or internships.

Now, some schools have career services specialists in public interest law, many schools have public interest law clinics, and still others have organized fund-raising drives, training sessions and job seminars.

There is also more coordination of activities between schools than ever before.

NAPIL, the largest public interest coalition in the country, was created in 1986 by students at 15 law schools who wanted to trade information about public interest law job possibilities.

Now there are student-run NAPIL groups at 109 schools, and in addition to raising the \$1.7 million this year, NAPIL also helps create jobs and training opportunities, coordinates loan repayment assistance programs for public interest lawyers and lobbies

for law school curricular reform to instill in students more of a commitment to pro bono work.

Other local and national organizations, including the American Bar Association, the Ford Foundation and the National Lawyers Guild also sponsor fellowships in public interest law.

"There's a very strong interest in public interest law on campuses across the country," says Ms. Welch. "Students are leading the way in job creation and funding those jobs for public service programs that wouldn't otherwise be able to afford them."

Ms. Welch says the increase in interest by students is due to several factors: the increased visibility of NAPIL-affiliated student groups on campuses; the increased numbers of jobs created by the students' fund-raising activities; law schools making public service a more important part of their curricula; and the tight job market.

Over the past six years, the bulk of the funding has come from students who are spending summers at law firms who donate one day's pay to a public interest law fund, which is used to pay students between \$2,500 and \$3,000 for a 10-week summer at a public interest law clinic or government program. Some law school deans match those funds, and law firms are also solicited.

As both the interest in such jobs and the supply of them increase and the economy worsens, students are coming up with innovative ways to raise money.

At the Fordham University School of Law, students raised \$38,000 one night in March with a "casino night"; they auctioned off their services to clean apartments and cook dinners, and merchants (many of whom are students' parents) donated resort weekends, dinner packages and tickets to Broadway shows.

The money permitted the Fordham Student Sponsored Fellowship program to increase the number of internships from 13 in 1991 to 23 this year.

But the weirdest fund-raiser to date took place last December at the Indiana University at Bloomington School

of Law, where students raised \$500 in a professorial "Kiss a Pig" contest. The prof who garnered the most bids by students had to smooch a porker.

Despite the seeming frivolity, most students take public interest law seriously. Eugene Feingold, a recent graduate of the University of Michigan Law School, has helped raise about \$300,000 in the past three years.

Mr. Feingold, 60, who gave up a tenured position as a professor of public health at Michigan to attend law school so he could do public interest legal work, is worried about the economy's effect on fund-raising efforts.

"The [Michigan] SFF [Student-Funded Fellowships] program has always been able to fund everyone who applied," he says. "This year about 100 applied and only about 50 could be funded."

Thomas J. Schoenherr, coordinator of Fordham's Public Interest Resource Center, says the surge in activity "augurs well for students, but it doesn't address the question of what people do when they graduate. It's only the beginning."

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