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[Oregon Law Students' Public Interest Fund (OLSPIF) - Funding for Summer Public Service Jobs]
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March 18, 1993

Oregon Law Students' Public Interest Fund
University of Oregon
School of Law
Eugene, Oregon 97403

President William Clinton
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Clinton,

I am writing to request funding for summer public service jobs. The Oregon Law Students' Public Interest Fund (OLSPIF) is a non-partisan student-run organization which raises funds to assist University of Oregon law students with summer jobs in public interest law. OLSPIF's objective is to encourage and enable law students to participate in public interest law positions where salaries are negligible or non-existent, and also to provide communities with greater access to legal representation in areas of the public interest. Another

objective of OLSPIF is to increase awareness of the great need for legal services among poor people in Oregon and elsewhere.

Basic legal services are unavailable to a growing percentage of our population. At the same time, the importance of adequate legal counsel is increasing in our society. America needs more public spirited attorneys. In our first three years OLSPIF has funded eight positions which would otherwise have not been filled.

Last year, OLSPIF was able to fund three public interest positions. Jeffrey Feldman worked for the Native American Program of Oregon Legal Services (NAPOLS), providing a variety of legal services to Native American communities around the state. Matt Bean worked for the Disabilities Law Project. His work was a "mixed bag of basic legal services and potential precedent-setting cases." Curtis Fisher worked for the Oregon Natural Desert Association; he was the first employee the organization has ever had. In previous years we have sent students to work for the Appalachian Defense Fund, Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, and several other underfunded organizations.

I realize that helping fund a private organization is probably not what you envisioned when you devised the summer public service program. However, there are advantages to having OLSPIF administer legal internships. We have almost no administrative

costs. We are run by student volunteers and we ask that students locate needy public interest organizations and obtain a qualified volunteer job offer. 100% of all pledge money received goes to the summer stipends.

OLSPIF gets most of its funding from within the University of Oregon Law School. First and second year students are asked to "work a day in the public interest" this summer, giving a day's pay, while third year students will be asked to pledge 1% of their 1993 earnings. Faculty and staff also make a substantial contribution. OLSPIF has also gone beyond the confines of the law school for financial assistance by seeking the support of alumni and local law firms and applying for state IOLTA funds and foundation support. In our first year, OLSPIF raised over \$10,000 in pledges and grants. In 1991 OLSPIF also raised approximately \$10,000 in pledges and grants. Last year we were able to raise \$6,600 in pledges and grants.

Unfortunately, with enrollment down and summer employment harder to find, our student pledge base has diminished. OLSPIF is still a fledgling organization; to continue making a meaningful contribution we need your help. A full summer stipend is \$2500, with \$5000 we could two full time summer positions. Every year we turn away at least 10 applicants who have found jobs with public interest groups. Many are unable to take those positions without OLSPIF stipends.

Thank you for taking the time to consider our proposal and for raising the spirit of public minded citizens. Whatever your decision you have our support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Charles Beckman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Charles F. Beckman-Business Officer

Scott Shawver (2L)

OLSPIF Co-Chair '92-'93

Chuck Mundorff (2L)

OLSPIF Co-Chair '92-'93



BY-LAWS

I

The official name of this organization is Oregon Law Students Public Interest Fund (OLSPIF). OLSPIF is a student-run organization which solicits funds in order to: 1) Provide students at the University of Oregon School of Law with stipends for summer jobs in public interest law; 2) Encourage and enable law students to participate in public interest law positions where remuneration is negligible or non-existent; 3) Provide people with greater access to legal representation in areas of public interest.

II

Membership is open to any student enrolled at the University of Oregon School of Law. A law student who is a member may continue to be a member after leaving the law school. OLSPIF shall not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation or political beliefs. A member, for purposes of voting, is anyone who has attended at least two meetings during the current semester. Membership in OLSPIF is not an eligibility requirement for receiving a summer stipend.

III

Three officers, two co-chairs and a business manager, shall be elected by the membership. The term of service shall be one year. Chairs shall be elected within the last two weeks of classes of Spring semester, to begin serving upon completion of Spring final exam period. A co-chair may be removed from office by a two-thirds majority vote of the membership in attendance at a meeting called for such a purpose. Such meeting shall be well publicized to the membership.

IV

The co-chairs shall be responsible for: 1) Organizing the fundraising efforts of OLSPIF; 2) Overseeing the meetings of the membership, including preparation of an agenda and minutes; 3) At least once each year, provide a financial accounting to the membership; 4) Approval of all statements using the OLSPIF name or logo.

V

OLSPIF shall maintain two separate bank accounts. The first, designated OLSPIF Stipends account, shall maintain monies raised solely for the purpose of stipend awards. OLSPIF will also maintain an operating account, of monies generated by the organization for the purposes of incidental expenditures. All checks written on the operating account of OLSPIF shall require the signature of one officer. All checks written on the OLSPIF stipend account shall require the signature of two officers. The co-chairs shall be responsible for the distribution of stipends upon the authority of OLSPIF and the OLSPIF selection committee.

VI

In order to qualify for an OLSPIF stipend, a student must be a full-time law student in good standing at the University of Oregon, and have completed one or two years of schoolwork. There are no requirements of scholarship or financial need. Decisions will be based upon information provided by the application and employer form. The applicant is responsible for; 1) finding the job opportunity; 2) establishing what the nature of the work will be; and 3) getting an offer, which may be contingent on the awarding of funds.

VII

The organization for which the student works must: 1) be not-for-profit, or, if for profit, the clients for which the student works must be non-paying and unable to pay; 2) state the weekly stipend it is capable of paying summer interns and that stipend must be less than \$200 per week; 3) have a policy of non-discrimination equivalent to that stated in these by-laws; and 4) complete the OLSPIF Employer Form.

VIII

The selection committee shall consist of: 1) three students, one from each graduating class, from the student body at large (OLSPIF members are eligible, but candidates for stipends are ineligible), selected at random; 2) two faculty members, to be appointed by the co-chairs, upon approval of the membership; 3) one administrator, to be appointed by the co-chairs, upon the approval of the membership; and 4) one OLSPIF member who shall only vote in the event of a tie. Service shall be for one selection period, during the Spring semester of each year. The OLSPIF selection committee is subject to these by-laws and shall promote OLSPIF's purpose as set forth in these by-laws. Selection of stipend candidates shall be by majority vote of the selection committee with all members present.