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Education Loan Repayment Available for Eligible Attorneys in Iowa
The John R. Justice Grant Program relieves debt load for public interest attorneys

Des Moines, IA., November 29, 2012 – The Iowa College Student Aid Commission (Iowa College Aid), announced today that the application for the John R. Justice (JRJ) Grant Program for 2012-2013 is now available online at www.IowaCollegeAid.gov through January 31, 2013. The John R. Justice (JRJ) Grant Program is a federally-funded grant intended to encourage qualified attorneys to choose careers as prosecutors and public defenders, and to continue in that service within the state of Iowa. Last year, 18 Iowa attorneys were awarded grants totaling \$104,880.

As attorneys graduate with overwhelming levels of educational debt, they are driven to seek employment in the more lucrative private sector, leaving both prosecutor and public defender offices struggling to attract talented attorneys. “Loan repayment programs are an invaluable tool, allowing talented professionals to accept positions they would otherwise overlook,” stated Karen Misjak, executive director of Iowa College Aid, the agency responsible for administering the program. “The JRJ Grant Program can help reduce the burden of debt for these lower-paying positions by providing funding to repay loans made through the Federal Family Education Loan Program, William D. Ford Federal Direct Loans, Graduate and Professional Student PLUS Loans, Federal Perkins Loans, Federal Consolidation Loans and Federal Direct Consolidation Loans.”

For more information about the program, please contact Iowa College Aid at 877-272-4456, or visit www.IowaCollegeAid.gov.

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About the Iowa College Student Aid Commission

Iowa College Aid provides college access, financial literacy, and outreach services to Iowa’s students and families as they plan, prepare and pay for college. Iowa College Aid also administers state scholarship, grant, work study, and loan forgiveness programs totaling over \$60.0 million annually; provides I Have A Plan Iowa™, the state-designated career information system, free to all Iowans; partners with financial institutions in the state to offer an online financial literacy platform free to all Iowa high schools; conducts research and distributes higher education data; and offers Iowans assistance in obtaining student financial aid and college-related information. Additionally, Iowa College Aid is the administrator of the Federal GEAR UP Grant, a multi-year state-wide grant which is being used to provide early awareness programming and outreach initiatives to thousands of Iowa’s students and families. Through its role, Iowa College Aid also serves as the state-designated administrator of the U.S. Department of Education’s College Access Challenge Grant, which is designed to increase the college-going culture in Iowa. Iowa College Aid is also responsible for registering postsecondary institutions and other instructional schools under Iowa Code Chapter 261B and sections of Chapter 714. More information is available at www.IowaCollegeAid.gov.