



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Education Loan Repayment Available for Eligible Attorneys in Iowa**

*The John R. Justice Loan Repayment Program relieves debt load for public interest attorneys*

**Des Moines, IA., August 6, 2013**– The Iowa College Student Aid Commission (Iowa College Aid), announced today that the application for the John R. Justice (JRJ) Loan Repayment Program for 2013-14 is now available online at [www.IowaCollegeAid.gov](http://www.IowaCollegeAid.gov) through September 30, 2013. The John R. Justice (JRJ) Loan Repayment Program is a federally-funded initiative intended to encourage qualified attorneys to choose careers as prosecutors and public defenders, and to continue in that service for at least three years within the state of Iowa. Last year, 26 Iowa attorneys were awarded grants totaling \$51,668.

The high cost of education coupled with burdensome levels of educational debt prevents many attorneys from pursuing and remaining in public interest careers. They are often 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 may otherwise overlook,” stated Karen Misjak, executive director of Iowa College Aid, the agency responsible for administering the program. “The JRJ Loan Repayment Program can help to recruit and retain talented attorneys in much needed public interest positions by providing funds to repay federal education loan debt through the following programs: subsidized Stafford, unsubsidized Stafford, Perkins, Graduate PLUS and Federal Consolidation loan programs.

Iowa prosecutors and public defenders interested in the program must meet the following criteria to apply:

- Been employed in an eligible position on or before January 1, 2012.
- Have outstanding eligible federal educational loan debt.
- Be employed in an eligible prosecutor or public defender position for each of the three-year contract period.
- Be continually licensed to practice law in the state of Iowa.
- Be employed full-time.
- Have not defaulted on any federal student loan obligation.

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Applications must be received on or before the priority deadline of September 30, 2013 to be considered for the program. For more information about the program, please contact Iowa College Aid at 877-272-4456, or visit [www.IowaCollegeAid.gov](http://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 \$68.0 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](http://www.IowaCollegeAid.gov).*