

# WHAT IS *LRAP* ALL ABOUT?

The Vermont Law School LRAP (Loan Repayment Assistance Program) assists alumni entering low paying, public interest law with education loan payments. It is our goal to minimize educational debt as a consideration in career choice. These loan awards supplement the income of graduates with unrealistic education payments - to - income ratios. Loans are provided to refinance existing educational debt and to reduce the burden of educational loan payments. LRAP loans are forgiven contingent upon achievement of employment criterion outlined in the promissory note.

Representative employers would include: Legal services offices, public defenders, prosecutors and other appropriate government agencies, advocacy groups, and private firms. The graduate must be employed at least 35 hours per week in law-related, public interest work. Public interest work is defined as employment where the primary purpose of the work is the representation of the interests of an individual or a group of individuals which, for various economic, political, or social reasons, are not adequately represented. A graduate working for a private firm may be eligible for assistance where 75% of the graduate's time is spent on public interest work.

Although consolidation of loans is not required, the maximum assistance received by an individual will be determined using the minimum payment (consolidated payment). The number and amount of awards will vary annually due to funding limitations. The Financial Aid Office determines awards annually. Qualifying applicants with highest debt-to-income ratios will be funded first. A contribution toward educational loan payments will be expected from all applicants.

Please note that judicial clerkship appointments are not considered eligible employment. You must be a Vermont Law School JD recipient to apply.

## TYPES OF LOANS COVERED

- ~ Educational loans borrowed while in law school as well as educational loans borrowed to obtain a BA or BS degree (since this is a prerequisite to enter Vermont Law School).
- ~ Federal Family Educational Loans including Stafford, Supplemental, Grad PLUS and Consolidation Loans, Federal Perkins Loans.
- ~ Educational loans borrowed through established student loan programs. For example: Law Access Loans, LawLoans, and VSAC.
- ~ Graduates with delinquent or defaulted accounts are not eligible for assistance.
- ~ Federal Parent Loans for Undergraduate Students (PLUS) borrowed for a dependent and loans borrowed from family members will not be covered.

# APPLICATION PROCEDURE

In addition to the LRAP application, the following items are also required:

- ▶ A copy of your most recent federal income tax return.
- ▶ Lender Verification Form(s)
- ▶ Verification of salary (i.e. paycheck stub, salary letter).

We recommend that applications be submitted by December 15. Award notification, promissory notes, and a schedule of disbursements are mailed in January. Loans are forgiven at the end of the calendar year as outlined in the promissory note.

Recipients are asked to repay assistance in the form of a donation to Vermont Law School financial aid programs if and when able to do so. In addition, recipients may be asked to assist Vermont Law School Alumni/ae Affairs, Development, Career Services, and/or Admissions efforts.

For additional information and an application, please contact:

**Office of Financial Aid  
Vermont Law School  
PO Box 96  
South Royalton, VT 05068  
802-831-1235 or 800-227-1395**

Statistical Analysis of Prior Awards:

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
<b>Number of Applications</b>	65	70	57	55	60	63	72
<b>Number of Awards</b>	41	37	41	42	49	43	58
<b>Renewals</b>	27	28	23	14	21	21	24
<b>Total Awards</b>	171,600	137,000	130,500	119,400	153,000	166,000	158,000
<b>Low Award</b>	2,400	1,300	1,200	500	500	500	500
<b>High Award</b>	7,000	7,000	6,000	6,000	5,000	7,000	5,000
<b>Average Award</b>	4,185	3,703	3,100	2,858	3,122	3,860	2,724
<b>Low AGI</b>	17,595	23,884	19,740	24,375	27,083	26,565	32,000
<b>High AGI</b>	50,170	54,000	47,341	64,700	60,638	64,013	56,130
<b>Average AGI</b>	35,055	37,264	37,128	38,232	40,967	41,056	43,911
<b>Low Debt</b>	59,039	53,587	61,162	53,361	56,354	48,193	71,666
<b>High Debt</b>	154,525	180,627	165,348	184,167	192,397	208,689	189,219
<b>Average Debt</b>	98,052	103,556	105,940	107,944	119,586	124,293	128,247

# EMPLOYERS OF PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS

Employers of previous VLS Alumni recipients include:

- ▶ Law Guardian Program  
Albany, NY
- ▶ Ada County Public Defender  
Boise, Idaho
- ▶ Grand Portage Tribal Council  
Grand Protage, MN
- ▶ District Attorney's Office  
St. Calais, ME
- ▶ Wisconsin Farmland Conservancy  
Menomoni, WI
- ▶ Kansas Association of Public Employees  
Topeka, KS
- ▶ PA Dept. Of Environmental Protection  
Williamsport, PA
- ▶ Vermont Legal Aid  
St. Johnsbury, VT
- ▶ State of RI – Child Support Enforcement  
Cranston, RI
- ▶ American Wildlands  
Bozeman, MT
- ▶ Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety  
Santa Fe, NM
- ▶ Michigan Indian Legal Services  
Empire, MI