

## SCHOOL OF LAW ANNOUNCES FIRST RECIPIENTS OF LOAN REPAYMENTS

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Delivering on a promise to help graduates with substantial loan burdens pursue careers in public interest law, the University of Maryland School of Law recently announced the first recipients of its Public Interest Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP).

"It became clear to us that if students want to follow their dreams, we had to do our part and develop a loan forgiveness program," said Dean Karen Rothenberg.

Rothenberg explained that without financial assistance, many students cannot afford to pursue careers at public interest law firms, which pay starting salaries that are significantly lower than entry-level positions in private law firms.

Most students graduate from law school with about \$60,000 in debt on top of \$20,000 to \$30,000 of undergraduate debt, Rothenberg noted. Many public interest firms pay in the \$30,000-a-year range, while private firms starting salaries range from \$60,000 to more than \$100,000.

The first recipients of LRAP awards are Maro Constantinou '01, Mobilization

for Youth Legal Services, New York City; Kemie King '02, Office of the Public Defender in Florida; Kelly Ruark Krupinsky '01, Legal Aid Bureau, Baltimore; Rachel Markowitz '99, Legal Aid Bureau, Baltimore; Kate Marvel-Lewis '01, Center Against Rape and Domestic Violence, Corvallis, Ore.; Khalilah Nugent '01, Community Law in Action, Baltimore; Pamela Smith '99, Legal Aid Bureau, Annapolis; and Latina Wilson '98, Legal Aid Bureau, Baltimore.

At a ceremony announcing the awards, Wilhelm H. Joseph Jr., executive director of the Legal Aid Bureau, praised the loan forgiveness program, pointing out that it aids the state's most vulnerable population.

"Thank you for great leadership and for making this program happen," Joseph told the crowd. "You're lucky to have a dean like this who helps us help people with a great need."

On hand at the ceremony was a panel of students who shared their experiences as summer interns for various public interest law firms. Second-year student George Faraday worked at CASA of Maryland, where he investigated employers accused of cheating Hispanic day laborers.

"The most interesting aspect of the work was tracking down employers, who frequently take advantage of workers who aren't aware of their rights and may not speak English," Faraday said. "So it was 'in-the-trenches' law."

Hilary Heslep '02 called her summer internship at the Maryland Disability Law Center (MDLC) "a really good experience."

"You work with attorneys in a way you

can't in a law school clinic," explained Heslep, a JD/Masters of Social Work candidate who completed a spring Asper Fellowship at MDLC. "You work directly with clients, plus you get to do systemic advocacy. It was a really good experience because I combined both. I learned a lot from the attorneys, plus it was a great networking experience."

The loan repayment program is funded by the George McManus LRAP Fund; the Kieron F. Quinn LRAP Fund; the Samuel I. Rosenberg Loan Assistance Fund; and the Loan Repayment Assistance Program Fund. The McManus and Quinn funds urge graduates to work at the Legal Aid Bureau or similar public interest law firms around the country.

Rothenberg praised Rosenberg, a longtime member of the General Assembly, and Quinn, a leading trial attorney in Baltimore, for their generosity.

"Delegate Rosenberg has been a leader in the legislature on this issue," Rothenberg noted. "Keiron has made a significant commitment and has been instrumental in getting it started."

For more information about the School of Law's loan forgiveness program, contact M. Teresa Schmiedeler, Esq., director, judicial clerkships and public interest programs, at 410-706-2080. ■

*Pictured below: (left) Kelly Ruark Krupinsky '01 and Wilhelm Joseph, executive director of the Legal Aid Bureau; (right) Dean Karen Rothenberg and Delegate Sandy Rosenberg flank LRAP recipients Khalilah Nugent '01, Pamela Smith '99, Kelly Ruark Krupinsky and Maro Constantinou '01.*

