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**John R. Justice Student Loan Repayment Program**

The purpose of the John R. Justice Student Loan Repayment Program (JRJLRP) is to attract and retain qualified attorneys as prosecutors and public defenders. The program is funded for the current year by a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice.

To qualify for loan repayment assistance, an applicant must:

1. have been employed for at least 12 months as an eligible prosecutor or public defender
2. be currently employed as an eligible prosecutor or public defender, and
3. sign a service agreement committing to remain employed as an eligible public defender and prosecutor for at least three years

**Eligible Prosecutor**

A full-time employee of a state or unit of local government who is continually licensed to practice law in Texas and prosecutes criminal or juvenile delinquency cases at the state or local unit of government level (including supervision, education, or training of other persons prosecuting such cases).

Prosecutors who are employees of the federal government are not eligible.

**Eligible Public Defender**

An attorney who is continually licensed to practice law in Texas, and is a full-time employee of:

* a state or unit of local government, and provides legal representation to indigent persons in criminal or juvenile delinquency cases (including supervision, education, or training of other persons providing such representation) or
* a non-profit organization operating under contract with a state or unit of local government, and devotes substantially all of the employee’s full-time employment to providing legal representation to indigent persons in criminal or juvenile delinquency cases (including supervision, education, or training of other persons providing such representation) or
* a defender organization established pursuant to Subsection (g) of section 3006A of Title 18, United States Code that provides legal representation to indigent persons in criminal or juvenile delinquency cases, and is a federal defender on a full-time basis

*Note:* *Attorneys who are in private practice and are not full-time employees of a non-profit organization do not qualify as “public defenders” for purposes of this program, even if they, as individuals or as employees of a firm, are under contract with a state or are appointed by the court to provide public defense services.*

**Selection Process**

The application ranking process for public defenders and prosecutors will occur separately for each group. After the 2010-2011 state fiscal year, priority will be given to renewal applications. New applications will be ranked according to objective criteria established to identify candidates who are the least able to repay their student loans. A predetermined number of prosecutor applications within each of eight geographic regions will be selected; the remainder of the prosecutor applications will be ranked without regard to geographic location. Geographic location will not be a factor in the ranking of public defender applications.

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| **Eligible Educational Loans*** Federal Stafford Loans
* Federal Graduate PLUS Loans
* Federal Consolidation Loans
* Federal Perkins Loans

**Non-Eligible Loans\**** Federal Parent PLUS Loans
* Federal Consolidation Loans used to repay Federal Parent Plus Loans
* Any portion of Federal Consolidation Loans used to repay a spouse’s federal loans
* Non-federal student loans
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\*Loans in a default status are not eligible for repayment through the JRJ Loan Repayment Program.

**Loan Repayment Awards**

* The minimum annual repayment amount for prosecutors will be $2,500 and will not exceed $10,000.
* The minimum annual repayment amount for public defenders is $5,000 and will not exceed $10,000.
* The maximum aggregate amount allowed for a prosecutor or public defender is $60,000.
* Loan repayment assistance received through this program is considered taxable income by the Internal Revenue Service and will be reported as such by the THECB.
* Annual loan repayment awards will be disbursed to lenders after verification of eligible service, and will be remitted directly to the holder/servicer of the loans to be repaid.

Applications and additional details about this program are available at: [**www.thecb.state.tx.us/lrp**](http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/lrp)

**Application Instructions**

1. The applicant must complete all sections of Part I, Section A of Part II, and Section A of Part III.
2. The Human Resources administrator who is authorized to verify employment information must complete Section B of Part II.
3. The applicant must complete IRS **Form 4506-T**;if the applicant’s spouse filed a separate tax return, he or she must complete a separate Form 4506-T.
4. The applicant must read, sign, and date the Service Agreement.
5. The applicant must ensure that the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board receives the completed application, Service Agreement, and Form(s) 4506-T beforethe published deadline*.*

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|  | *\** Applications and service agreements must have original ink signatures; facsimile and scanned document copies will not be accepted. Applications received after the published deadline will be considered only if funds remain available. |

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