

# **JOHN R. JUSTICE STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM**

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **What is considered full-time employment for purposes of this program?**

“Not less than 75% of a 40 hour work week”

### **Are appellate attorneys handling criminal or juvenile delinquency case appeals eligible for this program?**

Yes.

### **Are elected officials eligible for loan repayment through this program?**

The Bureau of Justice Assistance has determined that elected officials are not eligible for loan repayment assistance through the JRJ SLRP.

### **What if loans were consolidated with a spouse's student loans?**

Attorneys who consolidate their qualifying loans with a spouse's loans should provide documentation showing the dollar amount each party held at the time of consolidation. THECB will review the current loan balance and calculate the percentage attributable to the attorney requesting participation, to establish the portion of the loan balance that is eligible for repayment.

### **Will accepting the JRJ loan repayment award jeopardize the recipients' eligibility for the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program?**

JRJ loan repayment awards do not make recipients ineligible for Public Service Loan Forgiveness under the College Cost Reduction and Access Act. The following web link provides useful information on the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program, as well as Income Based Repayment (IBR) plans: [IBR Info](#)

### **How will JRJ loan repayment awards affect IBR plans?**

IBR payment amounts are a percentage of income and are also based on the loan balance due. Because JRJ loan repayment awards are considered income by the IRS and also reduce the loan balance, a repayment award may increase the monthly payment amount due on the IBR plan. The Bureau of Justice Assistance web site states that, in most cases, JRJ benefits will have little or no effect on IBR payments and most of the attorneys who would be selected for JRJ repayment awards would benefit from participation in the JRJ program.

Prosecutors with IBR plans should contact their lenders to determine the impact of receiving a \$2,500 loan repayment, and public defenders with IBR plans should contact their lenders to determine the impact of receiving a \$5,000 loan repayment. Loan repayments for the current fiscal year will be disbursed in the 2011 tax year.

The following web link provides a calculator that may be helpful: [IBR Calculator](#)

### **Will accepting the JRJ loan repayment award jeopardize the recipients' eligibility for other loan repayment options?**

Law school, state-based, and employer-based Loan Repayment Assistance Programs (LRAPs) have individual policies regarding the effect of receiving benefits from other LRAPs (including JRJ in some cases). Applicants are encouraged to contact the LRAP administrators of the programs in which they participate to determine whether JRJ benefits influence eligibility or award amount.

**How will my income based repayment plan be affected by a JRJ loan repayment award applied to my loans?**

You should contact your lender/servicer to discuss this question and any actions needed by you to achieve the maximum benefit from the loan repayment award.

**Is the three-year service commitment extended for each year a beneficiary receives repayment funding? Can time served count toward the three-year commitment or does the clock start on the date funds are received?**

No, a three-year service commitment is not extended for each year a beneficiary receives repayment funding. A beneficiary may receive renewal grants in years 2 and 3 of the service agreement without extending the original three-year agreement. Time already served does not count toward the three-year service agreement. The three years of service begins on the date that the beneficiary signs the Service Agreement.

**Will the loan repayment award be sent to me or my lender/servicer?**

THECB will mail the payment to your lender/servicer with a cover letter stating the loan identification information you provided. THECB will also mail a letter to you informing you that the payment has been mailed to the lender/servicer.

**When does the 12-month “clock” start to satisfy the requirement that I have been employed for at least 12 months as a “eligible prosecutor” or “eligible public defender”?**

You must have been employed for at least 12 months as an eligible prosecutor or public defender as of January 7, 2011.

**When does my three-year service period begin?**

January 8, 2011