New Program Helps Students Afford Public Service Jobs

UB Law Forum
this most competitive market, our current students have overcome some strong odds and succeeded in receiving job numerous offers.

For example, Buffalo students have again done an excellent job at the US Dept of Justice interviews. Of the 187 attorneys hired, 115 were Class of ’92 and 72 were judicial law clerks representing 103 law schools. 57 UB Law students applied; 19 earned interviews, and 5 offers were extended. All were accepted.

Justice receives approximately 7,000 applications for their Honors and Summer Intern programs. This year, 115 students were hired, representing 60 law schools. 29 UB Law students applied; 2 received offers and both were accepted.

Yet another UB Law ’92 graduate succeeded in receiving an offer from another Federal agency Honors program, winning one of 7 available slots in a candidate pool of approximately 1,800.

Finally, a reminder — if you or your organization need to hire a law clerk or attorney on a permanent, part-time, or project basis please contact our office. We are in regular contact with experienced attorneys, recent graduates, and current students through our Employment Bulletin and Newsletter. Call the CDO at 636-2056.

NEW PROGRAM HELPS STUDENTS AFFORD PUBLIC SERVICE JOBS

The availability and quality of legal services for the state’s poor will be improved next year as the result of a new loan program for recent graduates of New York’s only two public law schools — the University at Buffalo School of Law and City University of New York Law School at Queens College.

They will share a one-year, $50,000 grant from the Interest on Lawyers Account (IOLA) that will help those who would like to work with civil legal service agencies — but who were discouraged because of substantial educational debt and comparatively low public service salaries.

The grant will act as seed money to develop a full Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP) for all UB Law graduates, according to Dean David B. Filvaroff. He says the Law School will raise additional funds to support graduates who pursue other areas of public interest law, such as public defense, or who choose careers outside the state.

Dean Filvaroff and Associate Dean Alan S. Carrel are now working with an advisory board comprised of law school administrators, faculty, students and area legal service workers to develop the structure, organize the administration and pursue sources for further funding. This committee will also refine the eligibility criteria for the loans.

The loan program will assist graduates from the Classes of 1988 through 1992 who meet employment criteria, income and adjusted income requirements.

According to a Buffalo Public Interest Law Program (BPILP) survey completed in September 1991, students reported that their educational debt often ranges upward of $25,000, including undergraduate and graduate education. Many reported exceeding $40,000 in loans. Almost all agreed that their debt would be a major factor in pursuing and accepting post-graduate employment.

The grant was the culmination of a three-year team effort at UB, under the leadership of Associate Dean Carrel and with the help of Angela Reyes ’86, an alumna who is assistant district attorney for Monroe County and an IOLA board member.

Christopher Thomas ’91 and Kathleen Welch ’91, former graduate assistants for BPILP, initiated the project, then turned it over to BPILP graduate assistants K. Jill Barr and Michael Freedman. Law students Catherine Cerulli, Maura Malone, Jennifer Norton and Danny Weitzner also worked on the proposal.

Law student Michael Freedman has been appointed director of the new LRAP program.

“As the only public law schools in the State of New York, Buffalo and CUNY have earned a national reputation for their commitment to the education and training of lawyers devoted to public service practice.

“Now, many more of our graduates will be able to afford to choose a career with the legal services community — and will no longer be forced to take jobs in the private sector in order to meet their educational loan obligations,” said Dean Filvaroff.