

## John R. Justice Grant Program

This project was supported by Grant No. 2010-RJ-BX-0015 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the SMART Office, and the Office for Victims of Crime. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not represent the official position or policies of the United States Department of Justice.

Bank of North Dakota has been awarded John R. Justice funds (\$100,000) through the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), to assist certain prosecutors and public defenders in repayment of their eligible student loans. Bank of North Dakota (BND) has been designated by the Governor to administer the grant program. Funds will be distributed fairly to eligible participants as an attempt to encourage individuals to enter and continue employment as prosecutors and public defenders in North Dakota. To qualify you must meet the following definition of a prosecutor or public defender:

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

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

- Public defender –
  1. Must be an attorney who is continually licensed to practice law and is a full-time employee of a state or unit of local government (including tribal government) who provides legal representation to indigent persons in criminal or juvenile delinquency cases including supervision, education or training of other persons providing such representation;
  2. Must be a full-time employee of a nonprofit organization operating under a contract with a state or unit of local government who 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;
  3. Is employed as a full-time federal defender in a defender organization pursuant to Subsection (g) of section 3006A of Title 18, United States Code, which provides legal representation to indigent persons in criminal or juvenile delinquency cases.

Note: Attorneys who are in private practice and not a full-time employee of a non-profit organization, even if individually or part of a firm that is under contract with a state, or court appointed to provide public defense services, do not qualify as "public defenders" and are not considered to be eligible.

- The applicant must be employed in the state from which s/he receives funding.
- The applicant must have an existing balance on an eligible student loan.
- The applicant must not have any federal student loans in a default status.
- The applicant must agree to and sign a three-year service agreement that he or she will remain employed as a prosecutor or public defender.
- The applicant provides proof of income and student loan debt to BND.
- The applicant has not exceeded the annual (\$10,000) or aggregate (\$60,000) repayment benefit limit. BND has established a \$7,000 limit during the first year.
- The applicant has completed and returned the application, service agreement, a copy of the most recent tax forms, and any other documentation requested by BND.
- The applicant's employer certifies the applicant meets the definition of "prosecutor" or "public defender" as noted above, and that the applicant works at least 30 hours per week as a prosecutor or public defender.
- The applicant returns the application and supporting documentation to BND by January 31, 2011.

Note: Full-time employment means "not less than 75% of a 40-hour work week prosecuting (prosecutors) criminal or juvenile delinquency cases or providing legal representation (public defenders) to indigent persons in criminal or juvenile delinquency cases.

Loan repayment assistance is based on the availability of funds. Applicants that show a greater need will receive a higher benefit.

(Information collected will only be used or revealed for research or statistical purposes and compliance with the request for information is not mandatory and participation may be terminated at any time.)