

Pennsylvania Bar Association  
**IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE**  
ON  
**STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS AND REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE**

**Tri-Chairs**  
Samuel T. Cooper, III  
Laura E. Ellsworth  
Louis S. Rulli

**Work Groups**

**I.**  
**Legislation**

*Complete final drafting of proposed legislation authorizing the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) to administer a statewide loan forgiveness and repayment assistance program for law graduates engaged in qualifying public service employment. Secure legislative sponsors to introduce legislation, and develop and implement legislative advocacy plan to obtain passage of legislation. Pursue feasibility of obtaining start-up appropriations and/or continuing funding from the General Assembly. Marshall public support for legislation. Monitor proposed federal legislation on loan forgiveness and coordinate with other bar associations and interest groups to advocate for passage of supportive legislation (regarding both loan assistance and taxability) on the federal level. This work group will have primary responsibility and be the primary spokesperson on legislative efforts, and will coordinate its efforts with executive branch efforts undertaken by Working Group II and IV. See Recommendations Nos. I, II, VII. A copy of the report is available at <http://www.pabar.org/probono/pbtrlf.shtml>.*

Work Group Members: Chair: Manderino; Tri-Chair Representative: Rulli; Members: Beaser, Greenleaf, McHugh, and Milkes.

**II.**  
**Administration of Statewide Program**

*Meet with representatives of PHEAA to prepare for the establishment of a statewide loan forgiveness and repayment assistance program administered by the Agency that is responsive to the needs of law graduates desiring to enter or remain in qualifying public*

*service employment. Review proposed eligibility requirements and structure of a statewide program as discussed in Report, and coordinate with Research and Support Work Group to stay abreast of latest developments among similar programs in other jurisdictions. Consider latest developments regarding federal and state taxability of loan forgiveness and repayment assistance programs. Pursue possible agreement from PHEAA to undertake administration of program without fee, and to explore on-going funding from PHEAA pursuant to PHEAA's multi-year public service commitment to Pennsylvania. Work closely with the Governor's Office to secure support from the Executive Branch for a statewide loan forgiveness and repayment assistance program and to explore financial support from the executive branch of state government. Coordinate with the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's Interbranch Commission on shared goals around student loan repayment assistance. This work group will have primary responsibility and be the primary spokesperson on administration efforts and in dealings with PHEAA and the executive branch of government, and will coordinate these efforts with Work Group I and IV. See Recommendations Nos. III, IV. See <http://www.pabar.org/probono/pbtrlf.shtml>*

Work Group Members: Chair: DeVries; Tri-Chair Representative: Cooper; Members: Azen (as liaison to Pennsylvania IOLTA), Creenan, DeVries, Dow-Ford, Steinberg, Marshall-Hockensmith, McCormick (as liaison to the Interbranch Commission)

<b>III. Law Schools</b>
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*Work with law schools throughout Pennsylvania to establish and strengthen loan forgiveness and repayment assistance programs administered and funded by law schools for their graduates. Facilitate the sharing of information among law schools. Provide technical assistance to law schools, law graduates, law students, and prospective students on public service opportunities, fellowship opportunities, LRAP programs, and latest information on financial planning and how to manage student loan debt so as to make public service financially possible. Convene or facilitate periodic meetings of law school administrators on a statewide basis to discuss public service career planning, financial support, and other relevant issues. Discuss with law school deans and other administrators proposed financial participation by all law schools in a statewide loan forgiveness and repayment assistance program. Marshall law student and alumni involvement and support. This work group will have primary responsibility and be the primary spokesperson on all dealings with the Law Schools, and will coordinate with the efforts of Work Group II. See Recommendations Nos. IV, V, VI. See <http://www.pabar.org/probono/pbtrlf.shtml>*

Work Group Members: Chair: Segal; Tri-Chair Representative Ellsworth; Members: Campagna, Fritsch, Crossley, Hornezes, Velasquez

#### **IV. Funding**

*Identify and pursue sources of adequate, reliable, and recurring funding for a statewide loan forgiveness and repayment assistance program not already assigned to another work group. Work with the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, the Interest on Lawyers Trust Account Board (IOLTA), the Continuing Legal Education Board, private foundations, state and local bar associations and bar foundations, public service employers, and others to cultivate possible funding for a statewide program. Pursue the feasibility of some or all of the following ideas: dedicated funding from pro hac vice fees, CLE add-on fees, bar examination add-on fees, deposition add-on fees, direct financial support from private foundations, bar foundations, corporations, employers, educational institutions, individual donors, etc. Marshall support for funding initiatives from local bar associations, law schools, public service employers, and interest groups. This work group will have primary responsibility and be the primary spokesperson on dealings with the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, IOLTA, the CLE Board, local bar associations, and public and private sources of funding not specifically assigned to other work groups, and will coordinate with Work Groups I and II on funding issues. See Recommendation No. IV. See <http://www.pabar.org/probono/pbtrlf.shtml>*

Work Group Members: Chair: Milkes; Tri-Chair Representatives: Cooper, Ellsworth, and Rulli; Members: Carr, McHugh, Price, Racunas, Wilkinson.

#### **V. Research and Support**

*Provide information and assistance to all work groups, compile latest data and information on loan forgiveness and repayment assistance programs throughout the nation and coordinate with the ABA and other bar associations on the exchange of information. Prepare readily-usable materials on the need for loan assistance in Pennsylvania, assist with “talking points” for legislators, justices, and other potential funders, prepare powerpoint or other graphic materials helpful to workgroups in pursuing their assignments. Maintain central depository of information on loan forgiveness and maintain web-site. Provide support as needed to all workgroups regarding all recommendations.*

Work Group Members: Chair: Trevaskis; Members: Kirby (as liaison to PLAN), Ballard (as liaison to DCBA), Albert (as liaison to ACBA), Zebe (as liaison to Philadelphia Bar)

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