

*I am excited to share with all of you the wonderful news that your long and tireless work in connection with the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Student Loan Repayment Assistance Task Force has definitely paid off. This past week, the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania announced the creation of a new student loan assistance program for legal services and public interest attorneys working in Pennsylvania for organizations funded by IOLTA. The notice from the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC) briefly describing the new program is attached.*

*While everyone connected with the Task Force deserves enormous credit for this superb achievement, I think it is especially appropriate to recognize former PBA President Tim Carson who established the Task Force along with an impressive line of PBA presidents who lent their strong support to this effort, including Andy Susko and Cliff Haines. My wonderful co-chairs of the Implementation Task Force, Laura Ellsworth and Sam Cooper, did a fantastic job in guiding the project and keeping it moving forward despite many difficult obstacles. The legal services community worked tirelessly, especially Sam Milkes who was instrumental in providing needed guidance. And, of course, David Trevaskis was vital to our work every step of the way.*

*The IOLTA Board and the Pennsylvania Bar Foundation were absolutely critical to this effort and success would not have been possible without their steady help and guidance, especially Bill Carlucci, George Gvozdich, and Marie Queen, among so many others. And, of course, Chief Justice Castille deserves our thanks for his support and leadership on behalf of the Court.*

*While it is not possible in this e-mail to recognize everyone, I do think it is critical that we pay tribute to two outstanding leaders who are most responsible for this wonderful new program: Al Azen and Maureen Kelly. As the executive director and board chair of the IOLTA program, Al and Maureen were on a mission to finally accomplish what had eluded us for too long. Because of their determination, persistence, endurance, and persuasiveness, this new program is a reality and will hopefully help to make it possible for legal aid and public interest attorneys to enter and remain in public service on behalf of Pennsylvania's poorest and most vulnerable residents. Al and Maureen deserve our profound thanks for their extraordinary efforts.*

*The first meeting of the Task Force was on February 18, 2003. Seven years later, through your dedication and collaboration, we now have a Pennsylvania student loan repayment assistance program. There is nothing we cannot accomplish when we work together to serve the public interest."*