



LRAP Minnesota helps reduce the education debt burden experienced by dedicated public interest lawyers who represent low-income clients seeking legal services to secure essential needs like food, shelter and safety, and fundamental rights like equal access to justice.

- Each year, LRAP attorneys help some 8,000 low-income clients throughout Minnesota. But for each client they help, two are turned away due to lack of legal aid funding.
- Law school debt of \$150,000 or more and legal aid salaries starting at \$45,000 or less prevent dedicated attorneys from working in public service.
- LRAP recipients would have to leave the work they love and excel in for private sector employment if they did not receive help from LRAP.
- LRAP receives broad support from law firms, bar associations, the law schools, individuals and others, but has been unable to meet the community demand for loan repayment assistance.
- Current LRAP award levels are beneath goal ranges to accommodate more applicants, and LRAP was still unable to fund seven eligible applicants this year.
- LRAP leverages the federal Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program, but our recipients need LRAP's help to successfully make ten years of qualifying payments.
- Even worse, federal Public Service Loan Forgiveness is in jeopardy on several fronts, and faces elimination or drastic cuts.
- HF 2080 and SF 943 seeks \$50,000 in FY 2018 and \$50,000 in FY2019 to bring Minnesota in line with other states by establishing a loan repayment assistance program for law school graduates serving the disadvantaged.
- This program, like programs already in existence for medical professionals and teachers, would help attorneys serving underserved Minnesotans receive assistance for institutional educational debt.

For questions about this legislation or LRAP, please contact:

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