

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS
SUPREME COURT OF ARKANSAS

J. D. GINGERICH, DIRECTOR



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Dear Arkansas Prosecutors and Public Defenders:

The Administrative Office of the Courts is pleased to have been designated again by Governor Beebe as the state agency responsible for the administration of the John R. Justice Loan Repayment Program. We have been working for several months with the Bureau of Justice Assistance of the U.S. Department of Justice and have just received word that the 2011-12 funding for Arkansas has been released. We will be working directly with the Arkansas Public Defender Commission and the Arkansas Prosecutor Coordinator's Office to take advantage of this opportunity for eligible prosecutors and public defenders to receive repayment of qualified student loan debt.

For a copy of the federal law and updated information on the program you are invited to view the website at the U.S. Department of Justice at www.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/johnrjustice.html. Within the parameters of the federal guidelines, each state is designing the program based upon the structure and needs of the state. In Arkansas, the distribution, receipt and review of applications will be handled by the Prosecutor Coordinator/Prosecution Coordination Commission and the Public Defender Commission. Thus, state and federal court public defenders should work directly with Ms. Didi Sallings at the Public Defender Commission and state prosecutors should work directly with staff at the office of the Prosecutor Coordinator. Contact information for each agency is found below.

You must meet the eligibility requirements of the federal law to be considered and your loan must be "qualified" under the federal statute. You must submit (1) the Arkansas Program Application, (2) the John R. Justice Student Loan Repayment Program Service Agreement and (3) a letter of recommendation from your supervisor. Persons who were awarded a John R. Justice grant last year must submit a new application in order to be considered for a 2011 award. Applications must be received by December 2, 2011. Applicants who are state or federal court public defenders should submit their application to the Public Defender Commission. Prosecuting Attorneys should submit their application to the Prosecutor Coordinator. Review of the applications will be completed and award announcements will be made in January, 2012.

Once funds are received and the successful applicants are announced, awarded funds will be paid directly to the student loan creditors - no funds are paid to applicants.

Further information on the Arkansas program is available through the websites of the Administrative Office of the Courts (www.courts.state.ar.us), the Public Defender Commission (www.arkansas.gov/apdc) and the Prosecutor Coordinator (www.arkpa.org).

Sincerely,



J. D. Gingerich,
Director

JDG/ps

cc: Office of the Prosecutor Coordinator
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