

2023-2024 Public Interest Law Award

Purpose

The Iowa Law School Classes of 1987 and 1988 established the Public Interest Law Award to honor and support Iowa Law School graduates who choose to enter the field of public interest law. The award provides annual grants of \$500 or more, which will be used to reduce student loans that recipients of the award, have accumulated during their legal education.

Award Criteria

To be considered for this award, each applicant must comply with the following requirements:

1. The applicant must graduate during the year of the award for which he or she is applying (i.e., 2023-2024 recipients must be a December 2023, May 2024 or August 2024 graduate).
2. The applicant must demonstrate the procurement of employment in public interest law, an area that includes but is not limited to legal assistance groups, public defender offices, special interest and minority group advocates, and civil liberties unions.
3. The applicant's starting and projected annual salary derived from the employment described above must be less than 125% of the standard maintenance allowance ("SMA") that is set each year by the U.S. Department of Labor. For the 2023 year, 125% of the "non high cost area" **SMA is \$64,998 and \$74,867** for large "high cost" metropolitan areas.
4. The applicant must demonstrate the existence of more than \$5,000 of outstanding debts, which have been incurred in the form of loans, used to finance his or her legal education.
5. The applicant must complete the attached application form.

Selection

The applications of qualified individuals will be screened, and the recipient(s) will be chosen by a five-member committee composed of the following individuals: a student currently participating in the Clinic programs, a faculty advisor to the Clinic programs, the current student representative to the Law School Foundation, the Director of Financial Aid, a member of one of the sponsoring classes. The members of this committee will make their selection of finalists and ultimately, as the candidate pool narrows, recipient(s) of the award by simple majority vote.

The committee will consider the applicant's level of need and the intensity of commitment to public interest law as its primary criteria when making its selections. In particular, the committee will consider the amount of initial and projected annual salaries, amount of outstanding student loans, and previous association and significant involvement with public interest organizations.

Academic achievement will also be considered but will not be treated as the most important factor for the selection decision. The applicant's residency or non-residency status and the location of his or her employment will not be considered in any manner to be a factor in an applicant's eligibility for this award.

2023-2024 Public Interest Law Award Application

A. Applicant Information

Name: _____

Student ID: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email (not uiowa.edu): _____

Graduation Date: _____

Cumulative Grade Point Average: _____

B. Total Outstanding Debt Incurred to Finance ONLY LAW SCHOOL: \$_____

C. ATTACH YOUR CURRENT RESUME. Be sure to include your law school activity

D. ATTACH SHEET describing your experience in public interest either paid or volunteer (include name)

E. EMPLOYMENT AFTER GRADUATION (if known):

Name of Employe: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Employer Contact: _____

Nature of Work Done by Employer: _____

Starting Salary: \$_____

Projected 2nd Year Salary: \$_____

Signature Required

Date

**APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO
LAW-FINANCIALAID@UIOWA.EDU ON OR BEFORE MAY 7, 2024**