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Funding News

📌 **Over \$3,000,000 in Cy Pres Funds Awarded to the Chicago Bar Foundation and Legal Aid Providers** – The Chicago Bar Foundation has been working hard to educate lawyers and judges about the value of designating *cy pres* funds for legal services related activities, and that hard work is paying off. In late 2006, *cy pres* funds totaling \$3,146,000 from three cases were awarded to the Chicago Bar Foundation, two law school clinics and two legal services programs in the Chicago area. The largest award, totaling \$2,000,000, will be used by the Bar Foundation to establish a fellowship program for loan repayment assistance. For more information, contact Bob Glaves, Executive Director, Chicago Bar Foundation, at bglaves@chicagobar.org or 312/554-1206.

📌 **IOLTA Comparability Rules Adopted in Texas and Minnesota** – Effective March 1, 2007, in Texas and July 1, 2007, in Minnesota, lawyers will be required to place their IOLTA accounts only in a financial institution that pays those accounts the highest interest rate or dividend generally available at that institution to other customers when IOLTA accounts meet the same minimum balance or other qualifications. Known as “comparability,” this IOLTA revenue enhancement strategy is already in effect in eight other states and has proven to be an important source of additional IOLTA income. For more information about this and other strategies for enhancing IOLTA revenue, contact Bev Groudine, Counsel, ABA Commission on IOLTA, at bgroudine@staff.abanet.org or 312/988-5771.

Pro Bono News

📌 **Federal District Court Establishes Pro Bono Program** – On November 6, 2006, the Federal District Court of the Northern District of Illinois approved a new court-wide program that will enable pro se litigants to have the benefit of a pro bono attorney at settlement conferences. In this voluntary program, attorneys from member law firms of the Chicago Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law (CLCCRUL) provide free legal assistance to pro se parties regarding settlement of their cases, including attending and assisting parties in connection with settlement conferences conducted by the court. The volunteer attorney, who is appointed by the judge presiding over the case, will assist in preparing for the settlement conference, participate in the settlement conference on behalf of the pro se litigant, and draft a settlement agreement and corresponding motion to dismiss, if appropriate. For more information, contact Clyde Murphy, Executive Director, CLCCRUL, at 312/630-9744, or visit www.clccrul.org.

Hot On the Web

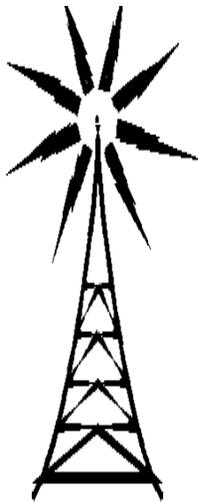
📖 **Financing the Future: Responses to the Rising Debt of Law Students** – This report published by Equal Justice Works (EJW) assembles the most recent data on the staggering debt load of law students and the capacity for repayment by those contemplating a public service career. The report summarizes the financial information gathered throughout this year by EJW and provides detailed information on what law schools and others are doing to help relieve the strain, including establishing and improving public interest scholarships, loan repayment assistance programs and postgraduate public interest fellowship programs. To download the report, go to www.equaljusticeworks.org.



LEGAL SERVICES NOW

Hot Off the Press

 **Public Sector and Public Interest Attorney Salary Report – 2006** – This biennial public sector salary report published by the National Association of Law Placement (NALP) features a section on federal government salaries and benefits, as well as information on salaries by years of experience for attorneys at five types of organizations: civil legal services organizations, public defenders' offices, local prosecuting attorneys' offices, offices of attorneys general, and other public interest organizations. Basic information on benefits (health and dental insurance, retirement or pension plans), and on the availability and nature of Loan Repayment Assistance Programs is also included. The full report is available from NALP for \$50, plus shipping and handling. To purchase a copy or for additional information about NALP research see www.nalp.org or contact Judith Collins, Director of Research at jcollins@nalp.org.



WASHINGTON UPDATE

Washington Update

The 110th Congress, which was sworn in on January 4, 2007, must first complete the FY 2007 appropriations bills before turning to the FY 2008 budget process. The ABA is continuing to work with Legal Services Corporation supporters to increase LSC's FY 2007 funding. Currently, LSC is funded by a continuing resolution at the FY 2006 level of \$326.5 million. Congress will begin work on the FY 2008 budget in early February.

During the first days of the new Congress, the House and Senate appropriations committees were realigned; of significance, the old House Subcommittee on Science State Justice Commerce lost jurisdiction over State Dept issues, and was renamed Commerce-Justice-Science to correlate with the Senate Subcommittee. Rep. Allan Mollohan (D-WV) will chair the House Subcommittee, and Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) will chair the Senate Subcommittee; both Subcommittees have jurisdiction over LSC funding. For more information, contact Julie M. Strandlie, ABA Director of Grassroots Operations/Legislative Counsel, at jstrandlie@staff.abanet.org or 202/662-1764.

For more information about specific items, call the contact person listed for that item. To contribute items to future issues of *LEGAL SERVICES NOW*, or for general information about this bulletin, contact Bev Groudine at 312/988-5771, fax 312/988-5483 or e-mail bgroudine@staff.abanet.org.