

May 18, 2007

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin  
U.S. Senate  
309 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510-1304

Dear Senator Durbin:

The American Law Deans Association (“ALDA”) is an association of over 120 of the deans of the law schools accredited by the American Bar Association. The members of the Board of Directors of ALDA are listed to the left.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the American Law Deans Association, I write to express our enthusiastic support for S. 442, the John R. Justice Prosecutors and Defenders Incentive Act. Thank you for introducing this important legislation which would establish a program of student loan repayment assistance, within the Department of Justice, for borrowers who agree to remain employed for at least three years and up to as many as six years as state or local criminal prosecutors, or as state, local, or federal public defenders in criminal cases.

We are strongly committed to supporting public service within our schools and in the legal profession as a whole. Unfortunately, the economics of pursuing work in the public sector often hinder our graduates’ abilities to pursue public interest work and reduce the supply of attorneys available to assist the less fortunate. This legislation will supplement our efforts and greatly reduce the financial hardships that deflect so many graduates away from serving the public.

We greatly appreciate your efforts on behalf of our students and graduates and your leadership on this important issue. We fervently hope that Congress will provide the necessary funds to support this program.

The views expressed herein in represent the views of the ALDA Board; they do not necessarily represent the views of each and every individual member of ALDA.

Sincerely,

David E. Van Zandt  
President