

## Law Student Division Legislative Summary

**Legislation:** S.442- The John R. Justice Prosecutors and Defenders Incentive Act

**Author:** Durbin (D-IL)

**Co-Sponsors:**

Biden (D-DE); Cochran (R-MS); Coleman (R-MN); Collins (R-ME); Feingold (D-WI); Feinstein (D-CA); Harkin (D-IA); Kennedy (D-MA); Kerry (D-MA); Kohl (D-WI); Landrieu (D-LA); Leahy (D-VT); Schumer (D-NY); Smith (R-OR); Snowe (D-ME); Specter (R-PA); Whitehouse (D-RI)

**Status:** Hearings were held on February 27, 2007 in the Senate Judiciary Committee. The legislation was reported favorably out of committee.

**Companion House Legislation:** H.R.916 (Scott D- GA)

**What It Does:**

- Establishes a program of student loan repayment for borrowers who agree to remain employed as a state or local criminal prosecutor or public defender for at least three years.
- Allows eligible attorneys to receive student loan debt repayments of up to \$10,000 per year with a maximum aggregate over time of \$60,000. Benefits are on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Covers student loans made, insured or guaranteed under the Higher Education Act of 1965, including consolidation loans
- Permits attorneys to enter into additional loan repayment agreements, after the required three year period for additional periods of service
- Requires attorneys to repay the government if they do not complete their required period of service.
- Authorizes \$25 million in appropriations for FY08