

MORRIS M. SHUSTER PUBLIC INTEREST FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM GUIDELINES FOR 2005

Introduction

As a result of a generous donation by Morris M. Shuster to the Philadelphia Bar Foundation, the Foundation established the "Morris M. Shuster Public Interest Fellowship Program" in 2003. This program is intended to assist public interest lawyers who face large student loan obligations that threaten their ongoing service as public interest attorneys.

Due to a generous contribution from an anonymous donor, and a second donation from Morris Shuster himself, the Bar Foundation awarded three Shuster Fellowships to eligible public interest attorneys in 2004. The Philadelphia Bar Foundation is pleased to announce that three Shuster Fellowships, each for up to \$5,000, will also be awarded to eligible applicants in 2005! As a result of the program's expansion, the eligibility guidelines have been revised to make the program accessible to an increased number of dedicated public interest attorneys in need of loan repayment assistance.

Eligibility Guidelines for Shuster Fellowship Program

Applications for a Shuster Fellowship are to be made directly to the Philadelphia Bar Foundation. In 2005, two Shuster Fellowships will be awarded to eligible public interest attorneys who have completed five or more years of work experience. One additional Shuster Fellowship will be awarded to one eligible public interest attorney who has completed three or more years of work experience.

To be eligible for the Shuster Fellowships, an applicant must be a full-time lawyer employed at a qualifying organization, who is financially eligible and has completed the requisite number of years of work experience at one or more nonprofit organizations principally involved in the delivery of legal services to clients (regardless of geography).

A qualifying organization is a current grantee or an eligible grantee of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation that is principally involved in the delivery of legal services to clients. An applicant is financially eligible upon demonstration that he or she has an annual student loan repayment obligation that equals or exceeds \$5,000 or 10% of his or her annual gross income, whichever is less. An annual student loan repayment obligation is the yearly amount required to be repaid by the applicant arising from all student loan indebtedness exclusive to the applicant. The amount of the Shuster Fellowship will equal the amount of the Fellow's annual student loan repayment obligation or \$5,000, whichever is less.

Only one Shuster Fellowship may be awarded to a qualifying agency each year. Additionally, past recipients of Shuster Fellowships are ineligible to apply for another Fellowship for a period of three years.

Selection of a Shuster Fellow

All applications for the 2005 Shuster Fellowship Program must be received by the Foundation on or before September 15, 2005, and submitted on application forms provided by the Foundation. The Foundation will acknowledge receipt of all applications. The Foundation shall review all applications to determine that they are timely and that they meet the requirements of the program. The selection of the 2005 Shuster Fellows will be done by a random drawing from among all qualified applicants who have submitted a timely application. The 2005 Shuster Fellows shall be announced in late September 2005. Further details will be provided.

Fellowship Assistance

Each Shuster Fellowship shall be a one-time annual award that will equal the amount of the Fellow's annual student loan repayment obligation, or \$5,000, whichever is less. The Fellowship shall be in the form of a loan given to the each Fellow by the Foundation, intended for student loan repayment assistance. At the conclusion of one year immediately following the distribution of these loan funds, the loan shall be completely forgiven by the Foundation upon certification that the Fellow has satisfactorily completed public interest employment at the qualifying organization during that year.