

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI



**JIM HOOD**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

**Prosecutors Training  
Division**

The John R. Justice grant funding administered by the individual states is an effort to encourage qualified attorneys to choose careers as prosecutors and public defenders and to continue in that service. It provides up to a yearly maximum of \$10,000 in loan repayment for state prosecutors and state and federal public defenders. The aggregate maximum amount is \$60,000. It covers loans made under the Higher Education Act of 1965, including consolidation loans. Mississippi will receive the grant of \$32,565 to disburse equally to public defenders and prosecutors. DOJ determines this allocation based on individual state population.

Repayment benefits would be available on a first-come, first serve basis to borrowers **who agree to remain employed as prosecutors or public defenders for at least three years.**

The Mississippi Attorney General's Office has been awarded the grant for loan repayment funds under the John R. Justice Student Loan Repayment Program. We are presently accepting applications for those funds, and applications received by June 30, 2016, will be reviewed by a Selection Committee to determine awards. Individual awards will be made in the amount of \$3,256.50. The State is divided into four different districts and awards will be made on a "least ability to pay" matrix and awarded equally in the four geographic areas.

Please mail packets to:

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**FAQ:**

**When is the award start and end date?** October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016.

Grant to be renewed by Congress each year.

**When is the deadline to submit an application for consideration?** June 30, 2016

**How are funds disbursed?** Funds are disbursed to the Attorney General's Office, which in turn will pay the loan holder directly, (i.e., Sallie Mae) for each beneficiary.

**Are there any limitations regarding the number of years an attorney has been practicing?**

NO

**Are appellate attorneys handling criminal or juvenile delinquency case appeals eligible for the program?** YES

**Are there any tax consequences associated with receipt of JRJ benefits?** Yes, JRJ funds are taxable.

**Will accepting JRJ grant funds jeopardize the recipients' eligibility for other loan repayment options, i.e. the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program?** In most cases, JRJ will have little or no effect on the award; however, the benefit may influence a borrower's payment amount due under an income-based repayment plan.

**Who is on the Selection Committee?** Deputy Attorney General, Special Assistant Attorneys General, a Public Defender, an Office of Indigent Appeals Attorney, District Attorney