



What students have to say about the Loan Repayment Assistance Program:

Crystal Parham '05: This award helps me to continue to do the work that I love. As you know, most students graduate from law school with debt and the salary of a public defender doesn't even come close to covering living expenses and loan payments. Additionally, I am a single mother and only have one salary to support my daughter. I was happy to learn that I was able to apply for LRAP again. If it was not for LRAP I would most likely have to leave my job. This a job that I love and makes a difference in the lives of New Yorkers every day. Many other law schools do not limit the amount of years that graduates can apply for assistance, and therefore are able to continue to do this amazing work. But with the financial hardships that public defenders face, most leave the job for financial reasons. The award is enabling me to follow my dream and give back to others. Without LRAP, this wouldn't be possible. Thank you.

Marva Brown '06: Working for the Legal Aid Society Criminal Defense Practice is a very challenging, rewarding, and diverse experience. I love being on my feet, running around court conferencing with clients, witnesses, DA's and judges. It is also oftentimes a thankless and misunderstood practice. My family asks when am I going to give up public defender work to start making "real" money and clients use the threat of retaining private counsel as a way to disparage my abilities as an attorney. It is very meaningful to have the support of Cardozo and the Laurie M. Tisch [Illumination Fund] behind me. The financial support is appreciated by knowing that Ms. Tisch believes in the work I do is priceless.

Tricia Phillips '05: I cannot begin to say how helpful this award has been. I love the work that I do. I love being able to help normal everyday people who feel as though they do not have a voice. But doing that work comes with a price. I don't get paid as much as many other attorneys with whom I graduated. And that is fine. But in order to become an attorney I had to take out substantial loans. And at the end of the month when I open my mailbox and see my student loan statement sometimes I feel that maybe I shouldn't do this job. I feel as though I owe it to my children to put aside my love of my job and these members of the community for a better paying job. It helps to be able to reduce my loans by just that little bit. And at the end of the day I may never be able to afford to put my children into fancy private schools. But hopefully the work that I do will make the community that they live in just a little better. I am



really thankful to Cardozo, and the [Laurie M. Tisch] LRAP program for recognizing the importance of the work that I do and allowing me to continue to doing it.

David Silva '05: My main dilemma as a public interest lawyer has been whether and when to abandon my elderly clients and my underfunded program to pursue more lucrative work, so that my wife and I can afford to raise a child in NYC. With the help of LRAP, I can postpone this decision a little longer. And for that, hundreds of low-income seniors and their social workers are truly grateful.

Bracha Statman '05: After working in the private sector for three years, I returned to a non-profit environmental law and justice group at which I had worked as a post-graduate fellow. The LRAP award I recently received will help me to continue pursuing this important work in the public interest.

Ariela Herzog '05: The grant that has been offered to me to repay my immense student loans will assist me in being able to continue my public service career. I handle over 70 cases of child abuse and/or neglect for the New Jersey Attorney General's office, and I have a direct impact on families' lives every day. It is a challenging, meaningful but underpaid position, and the LRAP grant makes meeting my monthly financial obligations a bit easier, and encourages me to continue.

Rachel Steamer '05: Without the LRAP award, I would have been forced to explore higher-paying private sector employment due to the overwhelming nature of my law school debt. Because I received an award, I can focus on my work as an Assistant District Attorney in Philadelphia with less anxiety about my financial obligations.

