

## **MORRIS M. SHUSTER PUBLIC INTEREST FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM GUIDELINES FOR 2007**

### **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 ability to maintain their ongoing service as public interest attorneys.

### **Eligibility Guidelines for Shuster Fellowship Program**

Applications for Shuster Fellowship are to be made directly on a confidential basis to the Philadelphia Bar Foundation.

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 after deducting any loan repayment assistance received from a fellowship, law school or employer. 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 applicant from a qualifying agency may receive an award each year. Additionally, 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 2007 Shuster Fellowship Program must be received by the Foundation on or before September 14, 2007, 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 2007 Shuster Fellows will be done by a random drawing from among all qualified applicants who have submitted a timely application. The 2007 Shuster Fellows shall be announced at the Andrew Hamilton Gala on November 17, 2007.

**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.

**Tax Obligations**

All fellowship recipients will agree to assume responsibility for any tax obligations that they may incur from an award from this program. The Foundation will issue the award recipient an IRS Form 1099 evidencing the award. Fellowship recipients should consult with their own tax consultants regarding the impact of an award from this program.

CERTIFICATION

I certify that I have read the Shuster Fellowship Guidelines for 2007 and agree to be bound by the obligations set forth in the above Guidelines. I also certify that I am eligible under the above Guidelines.

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Signature