

GILLIS LONG POVERTY LAW CENTER

2021 BOARD OF TRUSTEES UPDATE





HISTORY OF GLPLC

In 1985, Congress provided Loyola University with federal funds to create an endowed Poverty Law Center in the name of Gillis W. Long. Congressman Long served the people of Louisiana in Washington, D.C. from 1973 until his death in 1985 and was known for his commitment to the working and poor people of Louisiana.

The Gillis Long Poverty Law Center exemplifies Loyola's commitment to the community by offering educational and experiential opportunities to students and alumni providing legal services to low-income people. The Center finances a variety of programs including: paid student internships in legal aid offices, a pro bono program for law students, loan repayment assistance for graduates providing legal assistance to the poor, public service awards, and other lectures and events.

The Gillis Long Poverty Law Center is housed in the Broadway Building. Davida Finger serves as the director and Christina Luwisch as the associate director.

NEW PROGRAMS

The Gillis Long Poverty Law Center has a long-standing history of supporting students and alumni committed to serving disadvantaged populations.

In 2020-2021, we continued to support our two largest programs, the Summer Internship Program and the Loan Repayment Assistance Program. We also continued to invest in our three newest programs.

Fall/Spring Internships: The programs provide opportunities for second, third, and fourth (part-time) year students to work as interns in legal aid offices in New Orleans. Interns work for 12 hours per week for eight weeks, earning \$1,500.00. Three offices participate in our program: Southeast Louisiana Legal Services, The Pro Bono Project, and Disability Rights Louisiana.

Graduates for Justice: The post-graduate internship program offers full-time, short-term employment opportunities to recent Loyola law graduates waiting for results from the Louisiana Bar Examination. Post-graduate interns work for eight weeks, earning \$5,000.00. Southeast Louisiana Legal Services, Disability Rights Louisiana, and CrescentCare Legal Services host our interns.

Gillis Long Social Justice Fellowship: the Gillis Long Poverty Law Center and Southeast Louisiana Legal Services (SLLS) offered two paid fellowships to recent Loyola College of Law graduates. The Gillis Long Social Justice Fellows will work for one year, providing civil legal services to the indigent.

Pictured below: Spring Interns and Graduates for Justice.



LOAN REPAYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

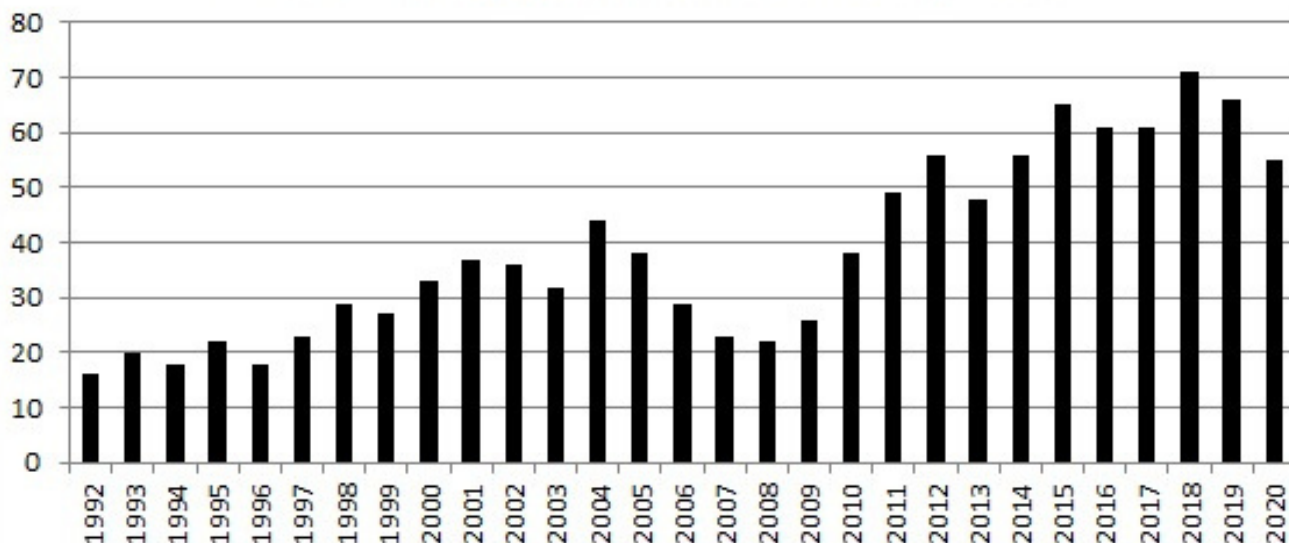
The Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP) provides financial assistance to Loyola law alumni employed in qualifying public interest jobs. Graduates may apply for assistance each August. In 2020-2021, we awarded more than \$191,000.00 to 55 graduates. Using all sources of funding, since 1992, the Center has granted over 1,100 awards, totaling more than 3.7 million dollars.

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Every year for the past 13 years, I have applied for the LRAP and Loyola/Gillis Long was there for me. The amount of the awards doubled the amount I was able to pay back every year. I do not think I realized how much the student debt weighed on me until earlier this year when I began to see I was really getting close to the end. I cannot begin to articulate what the LRAP has meant to me. When your program helped me, it allowed me to pay it forward and help countless others through my work as a legal aid attorney. **Margaret Morley, Gillis Long LRAP Recipient**

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LRAP Recipients from 1992 to 2021

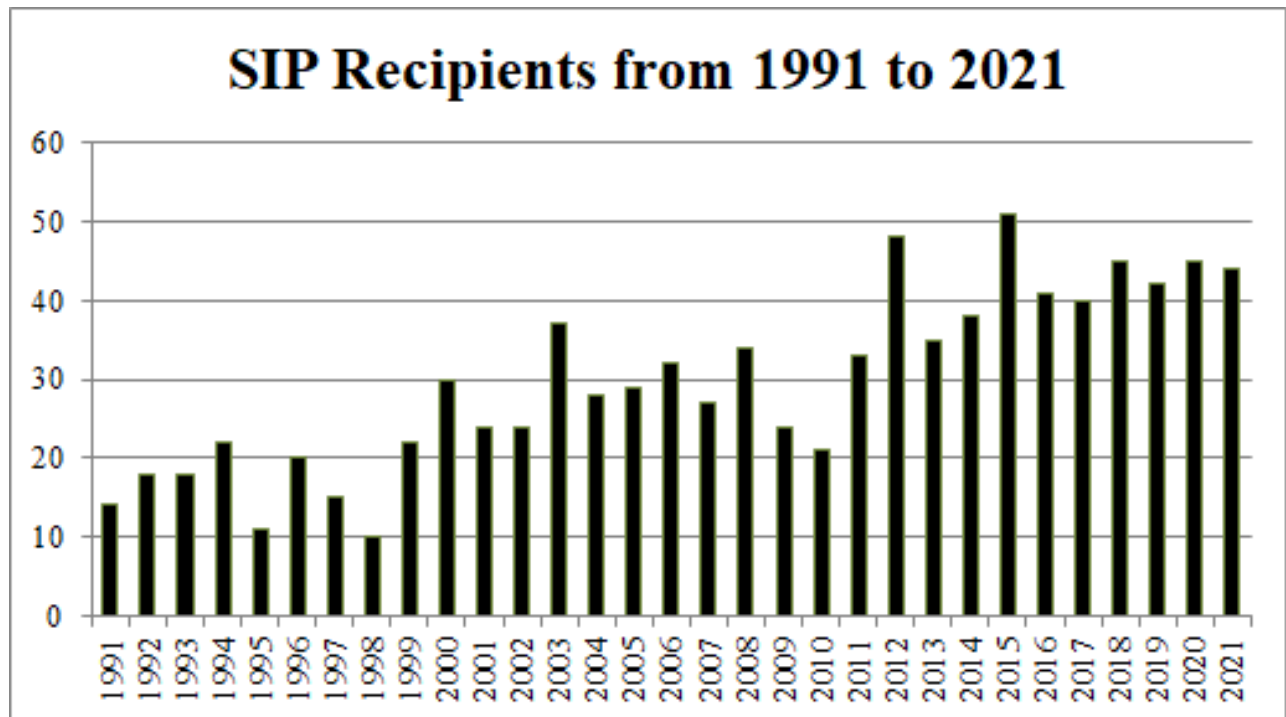


SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The Summer Internship Program provides opportunities for first and second year students to work as interns in legal services offices in Louisiana and throughout the United States. Interns work for 37.5 hours per week for ten weeks, earning \$5,500.00. Since 1991, the Center has granted over 900 awards, totaling more than 3.5 million dollars.

“ The rewards are clear: the basic impact made on a person's life. With their greatest resources long since expended and little possibility for help elsewhere, our homeless and disabled clients relied on our support substantially. It was also greatly rewarding to be one piece of a broader community response to those in need. The interplay between social workers, medical professionals, and legal staff was impressive. **Peter Finney, Gillis Long Summer Intern, Southeast Louisiana Legal Services, Summer 2021**

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PUBLIC SERVICE AWARDS

The Gillis Long Poverty Law Center recognizes students, faculty, staff, and alumni who have demonstrated a commitment to social justice. Recipients are chosen from nominations submitted to the Gillis Long office.

While we could not host an award ceremony in 2020, we still recognized members of our Loyola community and invited them to join us at the ceremony in 2021.

2020 Recipients:

- Fatmeh Ali, J.D. '20
- Ruth Blanco, J.D. '20
- Jenna Grant
- Isobel B. Healy, J.D. '20
- Jodi Hill
- Sabrine Mohamad
- The Honorable Cornelius E. Regan, J.D. '77
- Alberto Silva, J.D. '20
- Shanice Smith-Banks, J.D. '20
- Alexis B. Stanley, J.D. '20
- Brooke Walker, J.D. '20
- Jimmy Whitehead, J.D. '20
- Felecia Woolens, J.D. '20



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