

LSC PRO BONO TASK FORCE WORKSHOP

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Proposal for Allowing the Training and Supervision of Law Students, Law School Graduates,
and Deferred Associates to Count Toward an LSC Recipient's PAI Funding.

interest organizations. Increasing the amount of highly competent law student volunteers will increase the amount of people legal aid organizations are able to help.

Additionally, the current structure of PAI only allows funding for attorneys, so long as it does not comprise more than fifty percent of their total income. This creates a high level of uncertainty, as it is hard to predict one's annual income, and the income ratio of a volunteer attorney is not accounted for until the end of the year. As a result, public interest organizations may be reticent to give a volunteer attorney more cases if they believe they are close to providing the attorney with more than fifty percent of their income. Restricting the use of PAI funds to volunteers means fewer legal services will be provided to the low income individuals.

Further, volunteer attorneys serve as the mentors who train law students to their full potential. Limiting work done by volunteer attorneys for fear of exceeding the fifty percent threshold will also limit mentoring resources for law students. Proponents of incubators believe that the only thing standing between "public-interest-minded" law students who want to serve low-income communities is "a lack of proper training opportunities." ("Law school incubators and training firms: Reviving the apprenticeship model in the legal profession." October 12, 2012. <http://lawschooldisrupt.com/2012/10/02/799/>.)

IV. Reasons Why LSC Should Implement Conditions and Guidelines Allowing LSC Recipients to Claim PAI Credit for Supervision and Training of These Volunteers

Providing more resources to law students and new attorneys interested in public interest will not only encourage more private attorney involvement, but most likely recruit more attorneys to a public interest career.

For example, deferred associate program

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graduates seeking to start their own solo practice or small firm that represents the poor. The Chicago Bar is also setting up an incubator that targets students wanting to establish a community practice that serves low-to-moderate income residents.

Further, incubators encourage private attorney involvement with public interest organizations.