

newsworthy trends

For Law School Grads, Debt Influences Choices

(NAPSA)—According to a recent survey, 94 percent of this year's law school graduates financed their studies through school loans and 50 percent graduated with debts of \$75,000 or



For many law school graduates, debt outweighs principles in influencing career choices.

more.

"Debt levels like these produce enormous pressure on graduates to seek higher salaries," says Sheila Siegel Ketcham, Equal Justice Works program associate for research and advocacy and manager of the survey.

The Web-based survey also found that, due to debt from school loans, 66 percent of new lawyers aren't even considering lower-paying public interest or government jobs. Among those who have already accepted employment offers, less than 17 percent chose public interest or government positions.

In response to the issues raised by the survey, a growing number of law schools are developing loan repayment assistance programs (LRAPS) to help ease the financial burdens of graduates. The intent is to allow more students to accept jobs that promote social justice, without the worry associated with unmanageable debt.

The survey was conducted by Equal Justice Works (formerly the National Association for Public Interest Law), The Partnership for Public Service, the National Association for Law Placement and the National Legal Aid and Defender Association. To learn more, visit www.equaljusticeworks.org.