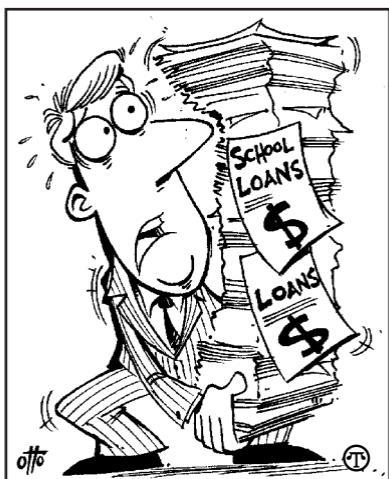


## OF JOBS

### Public Interest Law

(NAPSA)—When it comes to public service careers, salaries are seldom commensurate with the work involved. While few would argue that America's teachers are by and large underpaid—thus resulting in a nationwide teacher shortage—it may come as a surprise that the same could be said of another public interest profession: lawyers.



**For lawyers, the need to repay school loans can play a major role in the choice of career paths.**

Attorneys who take jobs in the public sector have the same financial obligations—namely, school loans—as those who go to work for corporations or private firms, but tend to bring home much smaller paychecks.

“The combination of low salary and high debt is lethal to the public-service law community,” says David Stern, executive director, Equal Justice Works. “When you offer salaries of less than \$40,000 to persons with educational loans totaling more than \$100,000, the result is epidemic problems in recruitment and retention.”

One way that law schools (and some states) are making it easier for grads to accept public sector jobs is through loan repayment assistance programs (LRAPs). However, LRAPs—which could encourage more attorneys to pursue careers in social justice—are still not widely available.

For more information about LRAPs, visit the Web site at [www.equaljusticeworks.org](http://www.equaljusticeworks.org).