

## Law School Clinical Experience Program (CFDA No. 84.097)

### I. Legislation

The Higher Education Act (HEA) of 1965, Title IX, as amended (20 U.S.C. 1134u-1134w) (expires September 30, 1997).

### II. Funding History

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>	<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
1978	\$1,000,000	1992	\$8,000,000
1980	4,000,000	1993	9,920,000
1985	1,500,000	1994	14,920,000
1990	4,935,000	1995	13,222,000
1991	5,855,000	1996	5,500,000

### III. Analysis of Program Performance

#### A. Goals and Objectives

The goal of this program is to establish, to continue, or expand programs in accredited law schools that provide clinical experience in the practice of law, with absolute preference given to programs that provide legal experience in the preparation and trial of actual cases (including both administrative cases and out-of-court settlements) and to programs providing service to persons who have difficulty in gaining access to legal representation.

#### B. Strategies to Achieve Goals

##### Services Supported

The Law School Clinical Experience program supports annual, competitive discretionary grants to accredited law schools to establish, continue, or expand clinical experience for law students. Preference is given to programs providing legal experience in the preparation and trial of actual cases, including both administrative cases and out-of-court settlements. Grants may not finance more than 90 percent of the project costs. The maximum grant award to any school in any fiscal year is \$250,000. Project costs may include planning, preparation of related teaching materials, administration, training of faculty members, salary for additional faculty or attorneys and others directly involved in supervision, and other activities related to the program.

Each year, students at participating institutions provide legal assistance to disadvantaged clients. Students typically gain experience in handling legal problems relating to the elderly, indigent parents, the homeless, the handicapped, the disadvantaged, families with problems, victims of domestic abuse, immigrants and refugees, and individuals with AIDS.

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During 1996 the program made 54 grants, compared with 105 the previous year. The average award was \$102,000 in 1996 and \$117,000 in 1995. These grants supported 2,130 students in 1996, compared with 4,375 in 1995, and the cost per participant was \$2,600 in 1996 and \$2,800 for the previous year.

### **Strategic Initiatives**

None.

### **C. Program Performance—Indicators of Impact and Effectiveness**

Performance indicators are being developed. See also Office-Wide Performance Indicators for the Office of Postsecondary Education displayed in the Overview (OPS) to the postsecondary education programs.

### **IV. Planned Studies**

None.

### **V. Sources of Information**

Program files.

### **VI. Contacts for Further Information**

Program Operations: Tanyelle D. Hawkins (202) 260-3393

Program Studies: Dan Morrissey (202) 401-3619