For more information, please contact us:

law_financial@shu.edu

973-642-8850

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Director of Financial Resource Management

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SETON HALL | LAW

2011–2012 Financial Aid Guide

Office of Financial Resource Management
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Applying for Aid

The first step in the financial aid process is to ***complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online (www.fafsa.ed.gov)*** as soon as possible beginning January 1, 2011, using 2010 federal tax information. You will need your federal PIN to complete the FAFSA. If you have never filed a FAFSA you may obtain a PIN at www.pin.ed.gov.

You may complete the FAFSA using estimated data if you are completing the FAFSA prior to filing your 2010 taxes. Seton Hall Law does not require a separate financial aid application, however, additional information may be requested.

Priority Deadline for FAFSA completion:	**April 1, 2011**
Complete the FAFSA	www.fafsa.ed.gov
Apply for a PIN	www.pin.ed.gov
Seton Hall Law School Code	G09986

The FAFSA must be completed each year.

All graduate and professional students are considered independent students for the purpose of completing the FAFSA. You may be asked for parental financial data at a later time if you apply for certain scholarships.

Who should complete the FAFSA?

Students who are interested in applying for federal or state financial aid, including student loans, work study, EOF State Grants, or fellowships, must complete the FAFSA each year. In addition, since several external scholarships or grants require that you file a FAFSA, we encourage all students to file annually even if you are unsure if you will require financial aid.

The information from the FAFSA determines your Expected Family Contribution (EFC). This information, in conjunction with Seton Hall Law's Cost of Attendance Budget, determines your eligibility for Stafford Loans and other financial aid.

Cost of Attendance/Financial Aid Budget

The Cost of Attendance Budget covers educational expenses for the fall/spring 9-month academic year. Students who enroll on at least a half-time basis for the summer semester will apply separately to receive loans for this period. The cost of attendance includes tuition, fees, books, supplies, and living expenses (housing, food, transportation, utilities, and miscellaneous expenses.)

Seton Hall Law uses a standard cost of attendance budget for all students. Students are encouraged to live at or below this budget.

Students who spend more in one area should plan to reduce their spending in other areas. Budget adjustments for valid educational expenses are considered upon request. Students may request an adjustment to the cost of attendance budget for items such as parking, the cost of health insurance, child-care expenses and the one-time cost of purchasing a laptop. Examples of budget adjustments that cannot be considered are: credit card debt, car payments, and moving expenses. Please contact the Office of Financial Resource Management for additional information.

Timeline/Next steps:

January-May

Review your Student Aid Report: Once you complete the FAFSA, **you will receive an email** from the U.S. Department of Education with instructions on accessing a copy of your Student Aid Report (SAR). Please review the comments on the SAR to determine if additional information is needed. You may make any necessary corrections to your FAFSA at: www.fafsa.ed.gov.

Verification: The Department of Education randomly selects students for Verification. If you are selected for Verification, you will be notified on your Student Aid Report. You will need to submit a completed Verification Worksheet as well as a signed copy of your (and your spouse's) 2010 tax return (with all schedules attached) and W-2 forms to the Office of Financial Resource Management. The Verification Worksheet is available on our website: http://law.shu.edu. You will not receive an Award Letter until Verification is complete.

March

Award Notification: We will begin mailing Award Notification Letters to admitted students beginning in early March. Your award letter will include approximate costs for the academic year and will list the type of financial aid and award amounts for which you are eligible.

April

Make Your Seat Deposit: As a reminder, all seat deposits are applied to your tuition charges for the fall semester. If you receive financial aid in excess of your tuition and fees (through student loans or a combination of grants/scholarships/loans), then you will receive a refund at the beginning of each semester.

May

Apply For Student Loans: The loan application process begins in late May. You will receive further instructions on securing your student loans and completing required student loan entrance counseling. Please also check our website for application instructions.

Basic Eligibility Requirements for Federal Student Aid:

In general, to be eligible for federal aid, students must:

- Enroll on at least a half-time basis (6 credits during the academic year/5 for the summer semester)
- Be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen and have a valid social security number.
- Register with Selective Service, if required.
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress, as defined by this institution, toward a degree. (Satisfactory academic progress is defined as maintain a minimum GPA requirement based on the number of credits completed.)
- Meet the requirements of Section 668.40 of the Title IV Higher Education Act of 1965 concerning conviction for sale and possession of illegal drugs.
- Not be in default of a prior federal student loan.

TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID

Seton Hall Law Scholarships and Grants

Merit scholarships are awarded by the Admissions Committee based on undergraduate academic performance, outstanding LSAT scores and academic promise. All admitted students are automatically considered for these scholarships. If offered, merit scholarships are renewable throughout the duration of your law school studies as long as Seton Hall Law academic and enrollment requirements are met. Please refer to your original scholarship award offer for terms of the award. Additionally, a very limited number of need based grants are awarded.

External and Endowed Scholarships

Seton Hall Law offers several endowed/restricted scholarships. You can refer to the Seton Hall Law website, http://law.shu.edu for further information. Many of these scholarships are awarded based on a combination of merit and financial need. We remind all applicants to complete a FAFSA (www.fafsa.ed.gov) to receive full consideration for all scholarships.

In addition, scholarships and/or loans are available from some county and state bar associations. We encourage you to contact local bar associations in the area of your permanent residence for more information. We also encourage you to actively seek funding from external scholarship and grant programs. Scholarship searches can be done online at: www.fastweb.com. You should start your search early (so as to not miss published deadlines) and continue your research while in law school. Please note, it is your responsibility to inform our office of any outside financial assistance you may receive.

NJ State Grants

The Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) Grant is offered to students who have met state-specific eligibility criteria. Students must have received EOF as an undergraduate, or have been EOF-eligible. Other students may be considered for the grant if they meet the following conditions: 1) are permanent residents of NJ one-year prior to applying for the grant and are enrolled full-time; 2) meet the income criteria established by the State of New Jersey; 3) meet the minimum GPA requirement of 2.0. The maximum EOF award for 2010-2011 was $2,650.

The Clyde Ferguson Minority Law Scholarship is open to students who fall within the specified income guidelines or disadvantaged students from under-represented groups with demonstrated financial need. Students must be former or current recipients of the EOF undergraduate or graduate grant, or would have been eligible as undergraduates to receive the EOF grant. All applicants must be permanent New Jersey residents for 12 consecutive months prior to applying for the award and must be enrolled fulltime in a program leading toward an initial law degree at a New Jersey Law School. Priority is given to previous Clyde Ferguson Grant recipients.

Yellow Ribbon VA Program

Seton Hall Law is proud to participate in the Yellow Ribbon Program, a provision of the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008. The Yellow Ribbon Program allows private universities to enter into an agreement with the Veteran's Administration to fund tuition expenses that exceed the amount covered by the Post 9/11 GI Bill. The Post 9/11 GI Bill Program will pay for the veteran's tuition up to the highest public in-state undergraduate tuition.

Seton Hall Law, along with matching funds from the VA, will provide up to $20,000 for each eligible veteran for the 2010-2011 academic year. Yellow Ribbon Funds are awarded on a first come, first serve basis. *(Individuals must be eligible for 100% of the benefits payable under the Post 9/11 GI Bill Program. Up to 10 students per academic year will be funded.)* Admitted students interested in applying for the Yellow Ribbon Program at Seton Hall Law should contact the Office of Financial Resource Management. Visit the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs at http://www.gibill.va.gov for additional information regarding the Yellow Ribbon Program.

Student Loans

The majority of law students finance most of their education through student loans. Seton Hall Law participates in the Direct Loan Program to help you meet the costs of law school.

Direct Subsidized Stafford Loan

Eligibility for a Direct Subsidized Stafford loan is based on financial need as determined by the information provided on the FAFSA. Students who demonstrate financial need may borrow up to $8,500 per academic year, to an aggregate amount of $65,500. The federal government pays the interest on the loan while the student is enrolled at least half-time, during the six-month grace period following the last date of attendance and during authorized periods of deferment. For loans disbursed after July 1, 2006, interest rates are fixed at 6.8%. Various repayment plans are available.

Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan

Eligibility for the Direct Unsubsidized Stafford loan is not based on financial need. Students may borrow up to $20,500 less any amount borrowed through the Direct Subsidized Stafford Loan Program during an academic year (up to an aggregate of $138,500 combined Subsidized and Unsubsidized Stafford Loans). Interest will accrue from the time the loan is disbursed until it is paid in full. Interest accumulated while in school or during other periods of nonpayment is capitalized (added to the principal amount of the loan), but a student has the option to make interest payments while in school. For loans disbursed after July 1, 2006, interest rates are fixed at 6.8%. Various repayment plans are available.

Federal Perkins Loan

Based on availability of federal funds, Perkins Loans are awarded to students who demonstrate exceptional financial need, the Federal Perkins loan is administered by Seton Hall University. Perkins loan awards generally range between $2,000 to $4,000. The interest rate on the Federal Perkins loan is fixed at 5%, but interest does not accrue while the student is enrolled at least half-time. Repayment begins 9 months after the student graduates, drops below half-time or is no longer enrolled.

There are several loan programs available to students who wish to supplement their other financial aid awards in order to meet their educational expenses. Your financial aid award letter may indicate eligibility for a Federal Graduate PLUS loan or an alternative (private) loan.

Direct Graduate Plus Loans

Graduate students in need of additional funds may apply for a Direct Graduate PLUS loan up to the cost of attendance minus all other estimated financial assistance.

Students must have completed a FAFSA and have applied for their maximum annual loan eligibility under the Direct Subsidized and Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan program. Direct Graduate PLUS loans are credit based, however, the credit score is not used in determining eligibility. Instead, borrowers must demonstrate that they do not have an adverse credit history. Repayment begins on the date of the last disbursement of the loan (but may be deferred until graduation). Direct Graduate PLUS loans have a fixed interest rate of 7.9%. For 2010-11, there was also a 4% origination fee, minus a 1.5% rebate. Various repayment plans are available.

Private (Alternative) Loan

Seton Hall Law recommends that all students utilize all federal loan options prior to considering a private/alternative loan. Private educational loans are offered by private lenders to cover educational expenses (Cost of Attendance) not covered by other sources of financial aid. Private loans are considered a part of your financial aid package. Seton Hall Law does not endorse or promote any private loan lenders, and does not maintain a Private Lender List, however, please check our website for an alphabetical listing of lenders that have provided private loans to our students for the past five years and a comparison of the Direct Graduate Plus Loan and private student loans.

Work Study/Student Employment

Federal Work Study (FWS) is a form of need-based financial aid where students work part-time at the law school or other qualifying agencies (summer only). To qualify for these positions, you must first file a FAFSA. FWS is considered a financial aid award. In addition to Federal Work Study positions, there are department funded positions for students who do not qualify based on financial need. If awarded, you are paid based on the number of hours you work.

First year, full-time students may work up to 15 hours per week. Returning full-time students may work up to a maximum of 20 hours per week during the academic year, and 33 hours per week during school breaks. Please contact the Office of Financial Resource Management for application procedures.

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