

ARTICLE 33: STUDENT LOAN RELIEF PROGRAM

Section 1. Student Loan Relief

All employees shall be permitted to use 50% of their Professional Development and Licensing Allowance under Article 11 to pay student loans.

Attorneys receiving funds from the Texas Student Loan Repayment Assistance Program (SLRAP) are not eligible to use the professional development funds to pay student loans.

Section 2. Texas Student Loan Repayment Assistance Program (SLRAP)

RAICES shall make every effort to resecure Texas Student Loan Repayment Assistance Program (SLRAP) funding for its legal staff. For employees who are eligible for SLRAP and/or any other loan forgiveness program, RAICES shall make good faith efforts to maintain the appropriate reporting and eligibility requirements for those programs. If RAICES is unsuccessful in securing SLRAP, RAICES shall provide a complete copy of the SLRAP application, including attachments, and a written explanation of their good faith efforts to the Union within 12 months of the signature of this agreement.

RAICES will keep complete copies of the SLRAP applications, including attachments, and any other loan forgiveness program applications for 7 years. If RAICES might be losing SLRAP funding, it will provide the results of the annual IOLTA audit. RAICES shall provide a full written explanation of their good faith efforts to the Union if they lose any loan forgiveness program.