
Envisioning Rural Practice as Public Interest Work
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(1) The Rural Attorney Shortage
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(2) Mixed Practice
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(1) The Rural Attorney Shortage
(2) Mixed Practice
(3) Community Services
Envisioning Rural Practice as Public Interest Work

(1) The Rural Attorney Shortage
(2) Mixed Practice
(3) Community Services
(4) Rural Lawyer Salaries
Recent Graduate Salaries

**National Data:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Job</th>
<th>National Mean Salary</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Private Practice</td>
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### Representative Rural Data:

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<tr>
<th>State &amp; Job</th>
<th>Salary Range</th>
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<tr>
<td>Private Practice in <strong>all</strong> of South Dakota</td>
<td>$52,000-$58,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Practice in <strong>rural</strong> Maine</td>
<td>Mid-$40,000s – low-$50,000s</td>
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Implications
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(1) Federal Loan Forgiveness:
    The Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program ("PSLF")
How to read this table:
• When a student pursuing a J.D. accumulates $54,500 in federal student loans, borrowing any additional dollars does not increase total loan payments if earning an average lawyer salary.
• If earning at the 75th percentile, the debt level at which borrowing more does not increase total payments is $117,000.
Great Plains Student:

Option 1: Creighton Law School  
Option 2: South Dakota Law School
Great Plains Student:

Option 1: Creighton Law School
• Location: Omaha, NE
  • Population 466,893
• Yearly Tuition & Fees: $40,096
  • 3-year Cost: $120,288

Option 2: South Dakota Law School
Great Plains Student:

**Option 1: Creighton Law School**
- Location: Omaha, NE
  - Population 466,893
- Yearly Tuition & Fees: $40,096
  - 3-year Cost: $120,288

**Option 2: South Dakota Law School**
- Location: Vermillion, SD
  - Population 10,772
- Yearly Tuition & Fees: $16,945
  - 3-year Cost: $50,835
Great Plains Student:

Option 1: Creighton Law School
- Location: Omaha, NE
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- $120,288 - $54,500 = $65,788 forgiven by federal government

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$120,288 - $54,500 = $65,788
forgiven by federal government

**Option 2: South Dakota Law School**
- Location: Vermillion, SD
  - Population 10,772
- Yearly Tuition & Fees: $16,945
  - 3-year Cost: $50,835

$50,835 - $54,500 = $0
forgiven by federal government
New England Student:

Option 1: Boston University Law  
Option 2: Maine Law
New England Student:

Option 1: Boston University Law
• Location: Boston, MA
  • Population: 685,094
• Yearly Tuition & Fees: $56,982
  • 3-year Cost: $170,946

Option 2: Maine Law
New England Student:

Option 1: Boston University Law
- Location: Boston, MA
  - Population 685,094
- Yearly Tuition & Fees: $56,982
  - 3-year Cost: $170,946

Option 2: Maine Law
- Location: Portland, ME
  - Population 66,882
- Yearly Tuition & Fees: $23,610
  - 3-year Cost: $70,830
New England Student:

Option 1: Boston University Law
• Location: Boston, MA
  • Population 685,094
• Yearly Tuition & Fees: $56,982
  • 3-year Cost: $170,946
• $170,946 - $54,500 = $116,446 forgiven by federal government

Option 2: Maine Law
• Location: Portland, ME
  • Population 66,882
• Yearly Tuition & Fees: $23,610
  • 3-year Cost: $70,830
New England Student:

**Option 1: Boston University Law**
- Location: Boston, MA
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- Yearly Tuition & Fees: $56,982
  - 3-year Cost: $170,946
- $170,946 - $54,500 = $116,446
  forgiven by federal government

**Option 2: Maine Law**
- Location: Portland, ME
  - Population 66,882
- Yearly Tuition & Fees: $23,610
  - 3-year Cost: $70,830
- $70,830 - $54,500 = $16,330
  forgiven by federal government
4 Students Take the Same Job:

• South Dakota Law: $0 forgiven
• Maine Law: $16,330 forgiven
• Creighton Law: $65,788 forgiven
• Boston University Law: $116,446 forgiven
Implications

(1) Federal Loan Forgiveness

(2) Recruiting
   • Law Schools
Implications

(1) Federal Loan Forgiveness
(2) Recruiting
  • Law Schools
  • Rural Communities
Ultimate Point

• Rural attorneys are already public interest lawyers
• They should be treated as such