Dear Students,

Happy New Year! We hope that the fall semester went smoothly for you.

We are contacting you to provide answers to questions we have received about the impact that Columbia’s 2013 Guaranteed Summer Funding (GSF) Program may have on your financial aid package. Columbia's GSF Program provides funding for 1Ls and 2Ls to work in unpaid, public service internships at public interest organizations and government agencies.

Each year, a substantial portion of the funding for the GSF Program is provided through the Federal Work-Study (FWS) Program. Because Federal regulations require that summer FWS funds be included as part of a student’s academic year resources, your summer 2013 FWS allocation will be reflected in your award package for the 2013-14 academic year. As such, any summer FWS earnings will reduce your eligibility for educational student loans by the same amount.

Financial Aid makes every effort to avoid this result for students who we expect will borrow to the full budgeted amount. In the event that student’s eligibility for student loans is affected by GSF, we will work with that student individually to adjust their academic year budget to allow for additional borrowing to offset the FWS earnings. This will not impact the amount you will owe on your loan – your debt is only the amount that you actually borrow. (E.g. if your original loan eligibility is $20,000 and you receive $3000 in Work-Study, your loan eligibility will be reduced to $17,000. If it is restored to $20,000 and you borrow up to the limit, you will owe $20,000, not $23,000.)

Be assured that our office works closely with Social Justice Initiatives to coordinate the use of FWS for our students. Our goal is that every student’s loan package remains the same, regardless of whether he/she has received GSF.

If you are concerned about being able to meet your 2013-14 student budget and think you may need to increase your borrowing, please contact the Financial Aid Office to discuss your options. The Law School's Financial Aid Office is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Our office is located on the 5th Floor of William & June Warren Hall.

We wish you a successful and rewarding academic year, and encourage you to contact us if you have any questions.

Best regards,
The Staff of the Financial Aid Office
Columbia Law School
Financial Aid Office - 509 W&J Warren Hall

Mailing Address:
435 West 116th Street MB-A-4
New York, NY 10027
(212) 854-6522
(212) 854-7445 Fax