



LRAP: Changing the Lives of Alumni and Their Clients

Sarah Peters '06 has had her share of emergencies throughout the past two years — many requiring financial flexibility.

Sarah is the sole attorney of Wildlands CPR, a 10-person Montana-based public interest organization specializing in restoring and protecting wild lands across the United States. Sarah helps environmental activists craft legally sound comment letters in an effort to persuade the Forest Service to adopt sound management of recreational motorized vehicle use.



Just making ends meet is challenging. With approximately \$800 per month in student loan debt and an income just approaching \$37,000 per year, Sarah saves money by growing her own food and keeping to a tight budget. But with the \$4000 per year LRAP award, "I'm not as stressed."

That's good. Because while she's writing white papers and bringing environmental activists together from around the country to combat irresponsible motorized vehicle use on our public lands, the last thing Sarah wants to worry about is how she's going to pay for a crown when she cracked her tooth. Or whether she could afford to be with family when an unexpected death occurred.

"I had to get a flight to attend the funeral, and last minute tickets aren't cheap," she says. "Without LRAP going toward my loans, I wouldn't have anything leftover in case of emergencies."

Sarah is a recipient of LRAP's Romm Award, named for the late Jacquelyn Romm '81, whose generous donation at the time of her death made the school's program possible.

Without financial assistance, Sarah says she'd still find a way to practice public interest environmental law. But, she confides, it would be much more difficult, particularly in these early years of her career.

"That's why it's critical to continue growing the UO program."

The main reason **Stacey Lowe '03** decided to attend law school was for the purpose of affecting change, and LRAP has helped her do just that.

"The bottom line is that without this program, life would be very difficult," says the first ever recipient of an Oregon Law LRAP Romm Award.

Stacey works for Southwest Oregon Public Defenders Services, defending those who otherwise could not afford to hire defense. She also is very involved with Coos and Curry Counties' Zero to Three Court, a pilot program for juvenile dependency cases that helps children between zero and three years of age who were removed from their families due to issues threatening their health and safety. The program also helps parents wishing to overcome the issues that led to their involvement with child protective services.

"I've had clients say, 'No one has ever stood up for me before,' and that is why I love my work."

Stacey says the LRAP award has helped her significantly in the wake of an ailing economy, especially now that she has two young children.

"Right now it has been all the more important to have that extra support," she notes.

Stacey recalls being particularly grateful for the stipend when she and her husband learned they were expecting a second child.

"We knew we needed a new vehicle large enough to accommodate our whole family, she recalls. "Without having LRAP paying my law school loans, we wouldn't have had the money available to purchase that vehicle."

Now that her four-year stipend is coming to a close, Stacey says she is extremely grateful for the assistance of LRAP.

"This award allowed me to get my feet wet in the work I am passionate about, and I am so thankful for it."

