



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Indiana Department of Workforce Development Announces Results of Student Administrative Law Judge Program**

Indianapolis – In April of this year, the Indiana Department of Workforce Development announced a partnership with Indiana University Law School to engage top law school students to address the state’s substantial backlog of unemployment cases. The agency’s timeliness for providing decisions on appeals cases was the nation’s worst and Indiana had more than 5,000 backlogged unemployment insurance appeals cases.

The 11 student judges helped diminish Indiana’s total backlogged cases from 5,117 to 2,742. As a result of this reduction in caseload, a majority of cases are meeting a 45-day turnaround time for the first time in more than five years. The student judges received class credit, instead of pay, for their service, which helped save taxpayers more than two hundred thousand dollars.

“Our agency drew upon some very talented Hoosier students in order to solve a problem that has plagued the department and our state for the past several years,” said Ron Stiver, Commissioner for IDWD. “We are excited about the results of this initiative that has generated positive feedback from employers and claimants alike, as well as recognition from the U.S. Department of Labor.”

“The summer program provided an incredible chance to utilize the skills learned at law school in a meaningful and positive way,” said student judge, Jim Davis. “I’ve been able to contribute to our state and help support Governor Daniels in reaching his goals of stimulating business and job growth.”

Leonard Fromm, Dean of Students at Indiana University Law School at Bloomington, stated, “We are proud that our students received such a great experience. The Indiana Department of Workforce Development did an incredible job of training these students and giving them an opportunity to have an impact on a major problem facing our state.”

The Indiana Department of Workforce Development also announced that the program will continue through the fall semester. Given the success of the program, plans are in place to provide an opportunity for 5 student administrative law judges to participate in the fall program. Currently, IDWD is accepting resumés and will interview candidates in the coming weeks.

For more information on the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, please visit us on our website at [www.workforce.in.gov](http://www.workforce.in.gov) or call 1-888-WorkOne.