

Request for Proposals

2010 National Sea Grant Law Center Grants Program

Executive Summary

Funding Source: National Sea Grant Law Center, University of Mississippi

Funding Opportunity Title: 2010 National Sea Grant Law Center Grants Program

Announcement Type: Notice of Request for Proposals

Timetable: Letters of intent must be received by 5 p.m. Central Time on Friday, October 2, 2009. Full proposals must be received by 5 p.m. Central Time on Friday, December 11, 2009.

Funding Opportunity Description: The purpose of this notice is to advise the public that the National Sea Grant Law Center is accepting proposals for one-year, legal research and outreach projects addressing coastal and marine issues. Approximately \$225,000 in federal funds is expected for 2010. A funding request of \$25,000 per project is suggested. A non-federal match of one dollar for every two dollars of federal funding is required.

Full Announcement

The National Sea Grant Law Center is a National Strategic Initiative of the National Sea Grant College Program. The Law Center, housed at the University of Mississippi, was established in 2002 to provide legal research, education, and outreach services to the 32 Sea Grant College programs and their constituents. (<http://www.olemiss.edu/orgs/SGLC>). The Law Center requests proposals in support of research and outreach projects in the fields of ocean, coastal, and marine law as part of its upcoming grant program scheduled to begin March 1, 2010. This announcement provides the following information:

1. Eligible Applicants
2. NSGLC Funding Priorities
3. Funding Levels
4. Letters of Intent Format
5. Proposal Format
6. Evaluation Procedure
7. Deadline and Submission Information
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Eligible Applicants

The National Sea Grant Law Center welcomes proposals from individuals, institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations, commercial organizations, and state, local, and Indian tribal governments. No person shall be excluded from participation in, denied benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving financial assistance from the

Law Center on grounds of race, color, age, sex, national origin, or disability. Unsatisfactory performance under prior Federal awards may result in an application being ineligible for funding. Only those who submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) by the required deadline are subsequently eligible to submit full proposals. While not encouraged, those LOIs that do not receive a positive review are still eligible to be submitted as full proposals.

Funding Priorities

In 2001, the National Sea Grant Office issued an RFP calling for “the creation of a law center to coordinate and enhance Sea Grant’s activities in legal scholarship and outreach related to coastal and ocean law issues.” Founded in 2002 to provide legal research to the Sea Grant community and its constituents, the National Sea Grant Law Center conducts research on marine laws and policies, coordinates ocean and coastal law research projects, and disseminates information to coastal and ocean policy-makers. For the past seven years, the Law Center has effectively addressed the legal needs of the Sea Grant community.

The need for these services continues. In fact, it has never been greater. With President Obama’s establishment of the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force in June 2009, significant legislative and regulatory activity related to the management of our oceans and coasts is expected over the next several years, on both the federal and state level. Sea Grant extension agents, coastal managers, fishermen, aquaculturists, developers, oil companies – everyone involved with coastal resources – will be confronted with new laws, regulations, and policies in the coming years.

The Law Center currently provides a number of services, which are in great demand and utilized by a wide range of individuals and organizations inside and outside of the Sea Grant community. In response to this demand, the Law Center is seeking proposals for one-year legal research and/or outreach projects. Examples of competitive research projects would include development of guidance documents for decision-makers or model ordinances, an analysis of the impacts of existing or new laws, regulations, or policies, or an analysis of the gaps, overlaps, and conflicts of current regimes. Examples of competitive outreach projects would be the development of a course to inform a particular constituent group of new laws or regulations or the organization of a workshop to gather experts to discuss and explore solutions to a particular legal issue. Summaries of previously funded projects are available on the Law Center’s website at <http://nsglc.olemiss.edu/2007%20Grant%20Final%20Report.pdf>.

Priority will be given to research and outreach proposals that address one or more of the following Sea Grant thematic areas: Safe and Sustainable Seafood Supply, Sustainable Coastal Development, Healthy Coastal Ecosystems, and Hazard Resilience in Coastal Communities. More information on these focus areas is available on the National Sea Grant College Program’s website at <http://www.seagrant.noaa.gov/focus/>.

Funding Levels

The Law Center anticipates approximately \$225,000 in Federal funding available for research and outreach projects in 2010. The recommended funding level for an individual project is approximately \$25,000, including all facilities and administrative costs (F&A) – formerly called

“indirect costs.” Matching funds equal to one non-federal dollar for every two dollars (50 percent) of the federal funding must be provided.

Multi-institutional/agency and interdisciplinary projects are strongly encouraged and may exceed the recommended funding level if the collaborative nature of the project clearly demonstrates justification for a higher funding level and the rationale is deemed appropriate.

Letters of Intent

To be eligible to submit a full proposal, a Letter of Intent (LOI) is required. LOIs will help the Law Center identify the required number and qualifications of reviewers and provide feedback to Principal Investigators (PIs) on appropriateness of proposed projects to the *National Sea Grant Law Center Grants Program*. PIs should submit LOIs as early as possible in advance of the due date; feedback will be provided by no later than Friday, October 16, 2009.

The LOI shall consist of the following:

- Brief (1-page) project summary describing the project’s objectives with emphasis on application, relevance, and value to Sea Grant constituents
- Detailed contact information for the lead PI – Name; Title and Position; Department; Mailing Address; Phone; Fax; Email; Names, titles, and positions of other investigators and collaborators
- Total amount of funding requested and preliminary budget.
- Identification of and sources and amount of any other funding being sought or received for the proposed project.
- Confirmation of whether any element of the proposed project has been previously completed, previously funded, or has been submitted to others.

The letter of intent must be submitted via e-mail to sshowalt@olemiss.edu no later than 5:00 p.m. Central Time on Friday, October 2, 2009. An email confirming receipt of the LOI will be sent within 24 hours. PIs not receiving a confirmation email should contact Stephanie Showalter at (662) 915-7775 to determine if the LOI should be resent.

Proposal Format

The instructions provided for submitting proposals must be followed. Information requested for each of the following sections identified must be included in the proposal. The maximum number of pages allowed for each section must not be exceeded. Proposals should be formatted for 8.5” x 11” paper using an 11-point or larger font such as Times New Roman or an equivalent serif typeface. Use 1” margins all around. The text in the narrative may be single- or double-spaced. No page numbering is required. Proposals will be accepted electronically in Word or PDF format. Incomplete or inappropriately prepared proposals will not be considered and may be returned.

Abstract

A summary briefly describing the project's objectives with emphasis on the application, relevance, usefulness, and value to Sea Grant constituents. The abstract is limited to **one page in length**.

Project Narrative

The maximum length for the narrative is **five pages either single- or double-spaced**. Additional pages will not be considered, and the entire proposal rejected if the stated number of pages is exceeded. The narrative should provide a brief description of the work being proposed by clearly stating the problems or research needs to be addressed, the resources involved, the utility of the work, and the benefit to the public. The project narrative must include the following subsections: rationale, objectives, approach, expected results, project duration, and general project information. A description of the required contents of each of these subsections is provided below:

1. **Rationale and Societal Benefits.** Provide a description of the need for the proposed research or outreach, background information, and how the proposed project addresses an ocean, coastal, or marine legal issue. It is important to describe the anticipated societal benefits to resource managers, industry, the general public, or other constituent groups.
2. **Objectives.** List the objectives of the proposed research or outreach project. Include a brief statement on the context of the proposed research in relation to other related work or fields of related research.
3. **Approach.** Outline methods, approaches, and techniques that will be used to meet the stated objectives.
4. **Expected Results.** Describe the results to be achieved during the project and how these results relate to current knowledge of the proposal's topic. Specific information about the outreach plan for publicly disseminating and communicating the project's results should be included.
5. **Project Duration.** All projects should show a 12-month timeline with a start date of March 1, 2010.

General Project Information

Additional information relevant to the success of the project. A brief (one-page) description of the following should be included in this section:

- **Current and Pending Support:** Include information on sources and amount of support/funding relevant to or associated with the proposed work. Clearly distinguish how the proposed work relates to or is associated with (but not duplicating) any research either currently funded or pending funding.
- **Facilities, Equipment, Personnel, and Other Resources:** Include information about facilities, equipment, personnel, management, and reliance on or interactions with or other resources that are directly applicable to the proposed work.

Literature Cited

References required if used in the proposal; citation of literature is important to establish the familiarity and expertise of the PI to the subject in the proposal. Include full citation: name of author, title, and location in the literature (no maximum length, single-spaced).

Budget and Justification

A Budget and a Budget Justification are required. The budget justification should explain and defend major expenditures. Subcontracts, if any, should have a separate budget page. A separate budget justification page is required that itemizes all budget items in sufficient detail to enable reviewers to evaluate the appropriateness of the funding requested. Please pay special attention to any travel, supply, or equipment budgets and provide details. Matching funds equivalent to 50 percent of the federal funds must be indicated; failure to provide adequate matching funds will result in the proposal being rejected without review.

Curriculum Vitae

The **maximum length is two pages** for each principal, co-principal, and associate investigator. The vitae must provide evidence of the investigator's education, qualifications, and experience in the field.

Letters of Support

The Law Center requires letters of support from any stated collaborators. As applicable, the Law Center encourages up to three letters of support from potential user groups such as state natural resource agencies, industry members or groups, and marine extension agents.

Evaluation Procedure

Letters of Intent will be reviewed by the Law Center for appropriateness to the grant program. Each full proposal received will be reviewed by at least two outside merit reviewers. Proposals will then be reviewed by a review panel comprised of attorneys, resource managers, representatives of private industry, and Sea Grant extension agents/specialists familiar with current ocean, coastal, and marine issues.

Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on the rationale of the project, societal benefit, professional merit, and integration of research outreach.

1. Rationale and Societal Benefit (30%)
 - The degree to which the proposed project addresses important ocean, coastal, or marine legal issues;
 - Likelihood that project will contribute to improved understanding of ocean, coastal, or marine law;
 - Likelihood of contribution to the improved management of the nation's marine resources.
2. Professional Merit of Proposed Project (50%)
 - Potential impact on the field of study or designated audience;

- Likelihood that the proposed project will attain the stated objectives;
 - Qualifications of the investigators;
 - Practical soundness of the proposed approach;
 - Degree to which novel approaches are used to solve problems or focus on new opportunities;
 - Potential for significant advancements in inter- or cross-disciplinary areas of endeavor;
 - Adequacy of the institutional resources available.
3. Outreach Plan (20%)
- Likelihood that proposed outreach activities will result in dissemination of information to the target audience;
 - The level of collaboration with the outreach programs of the National Sea Grant College Program. Investigators not affiliated with a Sea Grant program are strongly encouraged to include Sea Grant outreach or communications personnel as collaborators on the proposal. Investigators not familiar with the Sea Grant Program may contact Stephanie Showalter via phone (662-915-7775) or email (sshowalt@olemiss.edu) for assistance with locating potential Sea Grant collaborators.

Deadline and Submission Information

Letters of intent must be received by 5 p.m. Central Time on Friday, October 2, 2009. Letters of Intent should be submitted via email to Stephanie Showalter at sshowalt@olemiss.edu .

Full proposals must be received by 5 p.m. Central Time on Friday December 11, 2009. Full proposals should be submitted (in Word or PDF format) via email to Stephanie Showalter at sshowalt@olemiss.edu .

Timetable

The *National Sea Grant Law Center Grants Program* process takes six months from the request for proposals to the initiation date. The following dates provide milestones throughout the process:

Letters of Intent due:	October 2, 2009
Feedback on LOIs:	October 16, 2009
Full Proposals due:	December 11, 2009
Notification of Project Selection:	February 1, 2010
Project Initiation:	March 1, 2010

Additional Information

Please contact Stephanie Showalter (sshowalt@olemiss.edu) on programmatic matters. Law Center Phone: (662) 915-7775.