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**Howard University Law Students Head for  
New Orleans to Provide Much-Needed Legal Assistance**  
*Departing Saturday, March 10 for Service Mission During Spring Break*

**Washington, D.C., March 9, 2007** – Working on behalf of prisoners’ rights, building houses, and supporting a class action lawsuit on behalf of public housing residents, 66 students from Howard University School of Law will embark on a service mission to New Orleans March 11-15 during spring break. Instead of partying on Bourbon Street, they will be providing complimentary legal services to the citizens of New Orleans and surrounding parishes still in need of advocates.

Many residents are still suffering from the meltdown of the legal infrastructure eighteen months after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita hit the Gulf Coast. Some have been held without charges or trials, simply because there are not enough attorneys in the decimated public defenders’ office to bring them through the system.

Public housing residents prevented from returning to their homes, most of which sustained only minor damage or no flooding, are now part of a class action lawsuit against the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Housing Authority of New Orleans to regain their right to return to their homes. Howard Law students will assist Loyola University of New Orleans School of Law students, who has the lead on the lawsuit, in their preparation.

Local New Orleans law firms have donated space to another project, where students will clear the titles to homes owned by hurricane victims. Homeowners will then qualify to receive government aid of up to \$150,000 to rebuild or replace their houses.

Other Howard University students will work with Habitat for Humanity to rebuild homes during the second phase of the University’s Alternative Spring Break (ASB) entitled *Journey Back to New Orleans — Uplifting Our People Through Service*. This is full-circle for many of the students who participated last year gutting homes ravaged by Katrina.

Other projects will include providing general law services to area residents, organizing and prioritizing their needs in continuing efforts to put Katrina victims' lives back together.

The law students' work during spring break is in coordination with the Student Hurricane Network (SHN), an award-winning coalition of law students across the country formed in response to the crisis in the legal system of the Gulf Coast post Katrina and Rita. The SHN is run by volunteer leaders at law schools around the country. SHN has linked more than a thousand law students from more than seventy law schools with projects in the Gulf Coast states to help piece lives and the legal infrastructure back together.

The contribution of Howard University students doesn't stop there. The undergraduate students' ASB trip to New Orleans the following week, beginning March 18 will bring over 500 students to work in conjunction with Habitat for Humanity and other aid organizations. A recent radiothon organized by Howard University's WHUR 96.3 FM raised more than \$125,000 to assist students with related expenses.

*Howard University is one of 48 U.S. private, Doctoral/Research-Extensive universities and comprises 12 schools and colleges. Founded in 1867, students pursue studies in more than 120 areas leading to undergraduate, graduate and professional degrees. Since 1998, the University has produced two Rhodes Scholars, a Truman Scholar, 13 Fulbright Scholars and nine Pickering Fellows. Howard also produces more on-campus African-American Ph.D.s than any other university in the world. For more information on Howard University, call 202-238-2330, or visit the University's Web site at [www.Howard.edu](http://www.Howard.edu).*

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**Note to the Media:**

On Saturday, March 10, more than 60 students will convene at Howard University School of Law, 2900 Van Ness Street, NW, Washington, D.C., at 5 p.m. The bus is scheduled to depart for New Orleans at 6 p.m.

The law school students will arrive back in Washington, D.C. (same location as above) on Friday, March 16, at approximately 5 p.m.