

International & Advanced Degree Advising & Recruiting Section NALP February Board Report

To: Clara Solomon, Board Liaison
CC: Meaghan Hagner, Member Services Coordinator NALP
From: Rebecca Moor (for Sarah Gruzgas, Section Chair)
Date: February 3, 2020

Please find below a summary of the Section's activities during the most recent quarter.

Quarterly Section Calls

- We held our second Section call on January 21, 2020 and approximately 15 people attended.
- Our next Section call will be held on March 10, 2020 at 11 am PT

International Student Interview Program (ISIP) Update

- Board Liaison Clara Solomon updated the Section on ISIP, hosted by NYU.
- NYU is willing to share employer information with law schools, including schools that are unable to participate the interview program. Any law school wishing to receive the employer list should email Clara directly at clara.solomon@nyu.edu.
- The number of employers participating in ISIP remained steady, but approximately 100 more students bid for interviews this year compared to last year. This resulted in a total of almost 2,000 students and, of those, 780 were scheduled for at least one interview. Due to the realities of the market and the growth of legal masters programs (among other factors), Clara expects this trend to continue.
- The ABA sponsored a lunch during ISIP that all LLMS, including those from non-sponsor law schools, were welcome to attend.
- NYU notified students about two non-ISIP opportunities that ran during "ISIP week":
 - New York County Lawyer's Association program on January 30
 - New York International Arbitration Center program on Monday January 27 (only publicized to New York-area students)

AALS Update and Employment Outcomes

- Clara Solomon also updated the Section on a panel/roundtable discussion organized by the Graduate Legal Education Section at January's AALS Conference in DC. The panel discussed the regulation of both LLM and law degree programs for non-lawyers, from admissions to academics standards to employment outcomes. Both Clara and Melissa Berry, the chair of the NALP Legal Masters Programs Interest Group, spoke on the panel.

- The ABA is potentially looking into whether or not to regulate non-JD law programs and may be looking to put together a task force to analyze whether and how these programs should be regulated.
- The Section discussed the concern among non-JD law programs about this type of regulation and whether there was any way to preempt this regulation to avoid coming under a “JD level” of scrutiny.
- Clara noted that strong arguments were made at AALS in favor of regulation from a consumer protection standpoint and that there is a lack of standardization and information among non-JD law programs. However, she noted that the diversity of non-JD law programs makes it difficult to have ABA-style employment tracking and that state regulators do regulate non-JD law programs.
- There was no consensus reached at AALS, but members aimed to work toward best practices and possibly put together a working group to discuss this issue further.

Joint Call with the NALP Legal Masters Program Interest Group

- Vice Chair Rebecca Moor told the Section that Melissa Berry had expressed an interest in a joint Section call before the NALP conference to talk about mutual issues, including employer outreach and employment outcomes.
- The Section agreed that a joint call with the Legal Masters program Interest Group would be worthwhile.
- Section chair Sarah Gruzgas reached out to Melissa Berry after the call to set an agenda and time for a joint call.

NALP Annual Education Conference Update

- Vice Chair Caroline Springer noted that the Montreal Westin’s special NALP room block had already been booked. Clara Solomon noted that rooms offering the NALP discounted rates were still available at the Sheraton and Embassy Suites.
- The Section discussed different lodging options near the conference center.

NALP Diversity and Inclusion Summit

- Clara Solomon told the Section that proposals were now being accepted for the NALP Diversity and Inclusion Summit in DC on October 7.
- The Section discussed whether international students fit the “diversity label” and whether including them should be encouraged, especially with regard to student wellness.

Bar Exam Update

- Rebecca Moor confirmed that there were no bar updates to report and asked the Section a question about whether LLMs from the Philippines are considered common law or civil law lawyers.