

**International & Advanced Degree Advising & Recruiting Section
NALP March Board Report**

To: Clara Solomon, Board Liaison
CC: Meaghan Hagner, Member Services Coordinator NALP
From: Sarah Gruzaz, Section Chair
Date: March 27, 2020

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

Quarterly Section Calls (2019-2020)

- We held our final Section call on March 24, 2020 in a joint call with the Legal Master's Program Interest Group and approximately 15 people attended.

NALP Annual Meeting Cancellation

- Board Liaison Clara Solomon confirmed that the 2020 Annual Meeting was cancelled due to COVID-19. One of the keynote speakers is scheduled to present online, others will be rescheduled for the next meeting.
- NALP is working with the presenters to prepare webinars for much of the content that was planned for the meeting; members should watch for emails over the coming months with information.
- She also shared that NALP may host a live conference simulation on one of the days the conference had been scheduled.

Bar Exam Update

- Vice Chair Rebecca Moor reported that many bar administrations are currently assessing how to respond to COVID-19 issues, including whether the July bar exams will be rescheduled or postponed. There are no confirmed rescheduled dates.
- Several law schools have transitioned to remote learning as well as a pass/fail grading system for the spring semester in response to COVID-19. These changes should not present issues for students planning to sit for the bar. In jurisdictions where remote learning is prohibited (such as New York), schools are recommended to obtain a waiver of strict compliance.
 - In New York, this waiver may be issued for the entire program by the Court of Appeals.
 - In Massachusetts, the waiver must be requested by the student individually.
 - In California there is no known prohibition against pass/fail grading or remote instruction.
- Schools that obtained a programmatic waiver for remote instruction before moving to a pass/fail grading system may want to update the applicable Court or jurisdiction.
- As the New York Board of Law Examiners office is currently closed, we do not know whether New York will accept electronic signatures for their required documents.

Legislative Update

- Vice Chair Caroline Springer confirmed that USCIS has approved remote instruction for students on F-1 and J-1 visas in light of COVID-19 responses.
- Many schools reported that international students have returned to their home countries in response to COVID-19. These students may face issues applying for OPT or CPT, as they must be physically present in the U.S. to apply. They may also face other issues relating to travel and housing.

Remote Work Recommendations

- Guest speaker Grace Zamora of USC shared tips for review students' documents via Zoom using Google Docs concurrently. She recommended having students update the documents in real time during the video chat.
- Other schools recommended using recordings of past presentations and updating scheduled presentations to the Zoom format to continue to offer career services to students.
- In particular, schools recommended that career advisors might focus on coaching students on proper video interview etiquette, as many companies are moving in this direction.

Other Topics

- We discussed the possibility of scheduling more informal ad hoc calls regarding specific topics that may be relevant for a subset of members. I created a Google document that allows members to identify topics they are interested in and to indicate which topics they would like to have a call on. I will begin scheduling these calls in the coming weeks.
- Vice Chair Rebecca Moor will be taking over as Section Chair for 2020-2021. I have been in communication with her to guide her through the transition, particularly because the Annual Meeting was cancelled.