

## MEMORANDUM

To: NALP Board of Directors

From: Amy Killoran, Co-Chair, Law School Alumni Advising Interest Group  
Rob Cacace, Co-Chair, Law School Alumni Advising Interest Group

Date: October 16, 2025

RE: Law School Alumni Advising Interest Group Q2 Board Report

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### I. Quarterly Meetings

The Alumni Advising Interest Group held our inaugural call on Wednesday, August 20, 2025; 22 members attended. We had sent invitations out to several groups in NALP Connect as well as to individual coaches. Because topics could overlap, we also invited employer coaches to attend, and several joined the call. At the call, we introduced ourselves and the idea behind the Interest Group and asked each participant to introduce themselves and share topics they would hope to discuss in this or future calls, which included:

- career gaps,
- AI's potential to displace attorneys,
- moves from government careers to the private sector,
- advising more senior attorneys,
- how law firms and schools can work together (especially in advising about the public sector),
- how to best use AI in the job search,
- recruiting trends and the lateral market,
- post-clerkship hiring,
- career pivots,
- LinkedIn best practices,
- imposter phenomenon, and
- how attorneys can change practice areas.

This discussion led to the drafting of a NALP Bulletin article on law school alumni advising.

We then held our quarterly call on Tuesday, October 14, 2025. 25 members were in attendance. We shared Interest Group updates, got updates from our NALP Board Liaison, Cassandre Stump, and discussed whether anyone on the call had insight into whether post-judicial clerkship hiring would differ this year, given the accelerated timeline of law student recruiting. We then spent the majority of our call discussing several "career gap" scenarios that we had previously posted on NALP Connect in three breakout rooms. We came together at the end of the call to share ideas about how we would advise law school alumni in those scenarios, which included a shorter gap due to a failed bar exam, a longer gap and re-entry after serving as a full-time caregiver for family, and a gap for mental health reasons. We look forward to continuing learning from each other and sharing ideas in future calls.

It's clear both from the energy behind creating the group and the meetings themselves that this is an area of deep interest to NALP members, and one that cuts across the membership in interesting ways. The group has been notable for its engagement and enthusiasm.

## **II. Section Administration**

Since the interest group began in July, 65 members have joined us online through the NALP Community. Neta Borshansky (University of California Berkeley School of Law) will serve as our well-being champion. We have another volunteer who is considering serving as a liaison to the Well-Being and/or Diversity sections.

The Conference Planning Committee accepted one of the Interest Group's two proposals for the 2026 Annual Education Conference:

- Larissa Brewster (Boston University School of Law) and Melanie Starks (Washington and Lee School of Law) will present on *Navigating the Nuances: Effective Strategies for Law Alumni Advising*.
- They are currently seeking additional co-panelists, and a call for volunteers was raised during the most recent quarterly call.

NALP Bulletin+ has accepted the following proposed article/column from the Interest Group:

- February 2026 – Neta Borshansky (University of California Berkeley School of Law) and Meredith O'Keefe (independent consultant) will publish an article on addressing career gaps on a resume that will serve as a resource to career advisors and to share with alumni individually.

## **III. Environmental Scanning**

While being mindful of antitrust rules, we have shared trends and updates that we have been experiencing in recent calls. Unsurprisingly, most schools have seen a number of alumni seeking guidance on a transition from federal government employment to private sector or other employment. Members have also seen an uptick in the number of lawyers – especially junior attorneys – looking to make a practice area change. There has also been discussion of what schools saw last year in post-judicial clerkship hiring and about layoffs among in-house lawyers within companies. Although we lack data for any of these to be true updates, it is helpful for the group to discuss how to approach different scenarios that law school alumni face.