

## MEMORANDUM

To: Fred Thrasher

Cc: Craig Compton, Board Liaison

From: Diana Mercer and Elizabeth Carr, Co-Chairs of the Law Student Professional Development Section

Date: October 19, 2023

Re: Second Quarter Board Report, NALP Law Student Professional Development Section

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As detailed below, during the second quarter of the 2022 – 2024 NALP business cycle, the Law Student Professional Development (LSPD) Section continued to work on upcoming programs and presentations, and continued its work on various work group charges. We did not hold a Section meeting during the second quarter but have a Section meeting scheduled for early November.

### I. LSPD Leadership Team:

- a. Co-Chairs: Elizabeth Carr, Assistant Dean of Career Services, Mercer University School of Law ([carr\\_e@law.mercer.edu](mailto:carr_e@law.mercer.edu)) and Diana Mercer, Director, Career Development Office, Loyola University New Orleans College of Law ([dmerc@loyno.edu](mailto:dmerc@loyno.edu))
- b. Vice-Chair, Annual Education Conference / Bulletin+ Article and Webinar Planning /PDI: Kristina Bilowus, Assistant Director of Career Development, Michigan State University College of Law ([bilowuskristina@law.msu.edu](mailto:bilowuskristina@law.msu.edu))
- c. Vice-Chair, Law Student and Lawyer Professional Development Sections Collaboration: Diana Mercer, temp until a new Vice-Chair is found
- d. Vice-Chair, Member Relations and Membership Development: vacant
- e. Vice-Chair, Leadership: Greg Miarecki
- f. Vice-Chair, DEI Liaison: Carmia Caesar, Associate Dean for Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, The George Washington University Law School ([ccaesar@law.gwu.edu](mailto:ccaesar@law.gwu.edu))
- g. Vice-Chair, Communications, Social Media & Marketing: Oscar Teran, Director, Career Development, Western State College of Law ([oteran@wsulaw.edu](mailto:oteran@wsulaw.edu))

### II. Upcoming Conference Presentations

#### The following RFPs were accepted for upcoming NALP Conferences

- a. Title: *Improving Institutional Effectiveness and Outcomes by Managing Up and Across*

Presenters: Greg Miarecki, Robin Thorner, Tiffany Tucker, and Diana Mercer

Conference: Annual Education Conference in Boston

Description: Career services offices often work hard tirelessly in silos, while being accountable to deans, faculty, students, and administrators. Our success expands when other law school departments support CSO initiatives and are more invested in student employment. This interactive session will discuss different models of collaboration, that will make your life easier, your work more productive and meaningful, and improve your results.

- b. Title: *Teaching the Business of Law (or Explaining Why BigLaw Can Afford Absurdly High Salaries)*

Presenters: Susanne Aronowitz, Sarah Hadjimarkos, and Diana Mercer

Conference: Professional Development Institute in D.C.

Description: Many students (and practicing lawyers) don't understand the economics of how law firms make money and how lawyers get paid. As such, they don't always understand why BigLaw associates have high starting salaries while smaller firms, government, and non-profit lawyers (and even most in-house lawyers) typically make much less. Our team has surveyed law schools and law firms to determine what's being taught and developed a ready-to-use curriculum to teach students and lawyers the business of law. The curriculum can be used (and edited) to allow PD and Career Services professionals to teach the business of law.

- c. Title: *Perspectives on Leadership: Teaching Lawyers and Law Students to Lead*

Presenters: Leanne Fuith, Greg Miarecki, Jordana Confino, Michelle Nash

Conference: Annual Education Conference in Boston.

Description: Leadership training is important to a new lawyer's and law student's professional identity formation and preparation for law practice, but it is often under-represented in law school curriculums. In fact, law schools and legal employers often promote skills and habits that hinder leadership if used incorrectly. In this interactive session, participants will be introduced to models for teaching new lawyers and law students to lead and to enhance their traditional lawyering skills. Participants will be equipped with best practices for launching a leadership development program that reflects the needs of law practice and is responsive to Amended ABA Standard 303.

- d. Title: *Put your oxygen mask on first! Countering compassion fatigue and building resilience for students and public interest attorneys with wellness and self-care*

Presenters: Sherry Marcus Cohen, Amanda Doroshow, Jojo Annobil, Lauren Domingo Roy\*

Conference: Annual Education Conference in Boston.

Description: In the public service sector, wellness is a key factor when evaluating career opportunities and impacts the services students expect from career advisors. The focus on wellness for those who experience vicarious trauma and compassion fatigue presents opportunities and challenges for advisors and public service employers. This program will explore how a range of actors across law schools and employers are building solutions to create wellness strategies and developing pathways towards resilience specifically in the public sector.

### III. Other Activities

- a. The Law Student PD Leadership work group headed by Greg Miarecki, in partnership with the Lawyer Professional Development Section, has planned a Leadership Roundtable Zoom for October 25, at 1pm CST. In addition to Greg, panelists include -- Kathy Vinson, Suffolk University; Leanne Fuith, Mitchel Hamline; and Michelle Nash, Hogan Lovells. The goal of the Zoom meeting is to stimulate a discussion of leadership initiatives in firms and law schools and to identify professionals interested in these issues. Another Zoom meeting is planned in the early spring and a meeting a NALP is also planned.