

MEMORANDUM

To: Pascale Bishop, Board Liaison

Cc: Fred Thrasher, Deputy Director Claire Nash, Member Services Coordinator

From: Shar Poormosleh and Freda Coleman-Jackson, Co-Chairs, Law Student Professional Development Section Leadership Team

Date: March 14, 2022

Re: Board Report, NALP Law Student Professional Development Section

During the fourth quarter of the 2021-2022 NALP business cycle, the Law Student Professional Development (LSPD) Section continued its work on its charges within each respective Work Group and conducted its fourth quarterly call hosted via Zoom, which included an emphasis on demystifying the RFP process for members.

Additionally, this report identifies our leadership team and summarizes the environmental scanning we conducted on our fourth quarterly call, and describes the status of our projects.

I. LSPD Leadership Team:

Co-Chair: Freda Coleman-Jackson, Assistant Director of Career Strategy, W&L Law, fcolemanjackson@wlu.edu

Co-Chair: Shar Poormosleh, Associate Dean of Career Services, Southwestern Law School, spoormosleh@swlaw.edu

Annual Education Conference / Bulletin+ Article and Webinar Planning/ PDI, Vice Chair: Alexander Piller, Director for Career Planning and Professional Development, University of Illinois College of Law, apiller2@illinois.edu

Law Student and Lawyer Professional Development Sections Collaboration, Vice Chair: Diana Mercer, Director, Career Development Office, Loyola University New Orleans College of Law, dmercerc@loyno.edu

Professional Development Tool Kit, Vice Chair: Stacy Keehn, Assistant Dean, Career and Professional Development, University of Ottawa, skeehn@uottawa.ca

Member Relations and Membership Development, Vice Chair: Elizabeth Carr, Assistant Dean of Career Services, Mercer University School of Law, carr_e@law.mercer.edu

Professional Identity Formation, Vice Chair: Samantha Ciriaco, Director of Professional Development and Career Counseling, Case Western Reserve University School of Law, samantha.ciriaco@case.edu

Knowledge Management and Resource Implementation, Vice Chair: Julie Peters, Associate Director of Professional Development, The University of Tulsa College of Law Peters, juliepeters@utulsa.edu

II. Section Call and Environmental Scanning

On March 2, 2022, 15 members of the LSPD Section participated in the fourth quarterly call of the current NALP business cycle.

A. Introductions

The call began with brief introductions by the Section Co-Chairs Freda Coleman-Jackson and Shar Poormosleh, followed by an icebreaker prompt.

Thereafter, Pascale Bishop, Board Liaison, reported on the most recent board meeting held in March 2022. Specifically, the following items were discussed:

- The RFP process opening for PDI and AEC
- The Board's review of the 2020 Business Plan and financials; stated NALP is in a good place
- Review of President-Elect Karl Riehl's draft business plan
- Expressed excitement for upcoming in-person events, such as AEC
- Encouraged members to explore volunteer opportunities with NALP
- Board's discussion of the variety of current work environments that NALP members find themselves in, but mostly hybrid

The meeting continued with a **Section Planning for Next Year** presentation that included a discussion of the RFP process by AEC/*Bulletin*+ Article & Webinar Planning/PDI Vice Chair Alex Piller and LSPD member Gina Sauer who provided tips and advice for submitting successful RFPs. Their tips ranged from idea creation and formation, to identification of potential panelists, and the importance of focusing on learning objectives in the RFP. Other section members including George Podolin and Samantha Ciriaco shared their experience with the RFP process.

Co-Chairs Freda Coleman-Jackson and Shar Poormosleh encouraged the membership to consider leadership opportunities within the section and provided their contact information for future inquiries. Also, the Co-Chairs announced the AALS' Section on Balance & Well-Being in Legal Education "Call for Micro-Abstracts".

The meeting closed with an announcement of upcoming NALP events, including AEC 2022.

B. Environmental Scanning:

In addition to the presentation topic, members discussed:

- **PD Support for Undocumented/DACA law students** (Leader: Shar Poormosleh)
 - Members on the call did not have direct experience working with this populations of students, but Vice Chair Julie Peters volunteered to review the section library on NALPConnect for applicable resources
- **Grooming Protocols in the Legal Profession** (Leader: Freda Coleman-Jackson)

- Members discussed the recent *Bulletin+* article “What Does a Lawyer Look Like?” and related programming on professional identity development of law students; Vice Chair Samantha Ciriaco shared information about her CSO’s collaboration with the law school’s legal writing program to offer related programming; Co-Chair Poormosleh shared her perspective on the article and how it informs student advising; Co-Chair Coleman-Jackson shared an idea for a program on the CROWN Act with student organizations; Vice Chair Stacy Keehn discussed her CSO’s collaboration with Outlaw to host a program on Navigating Queerness in the Legal Profession; member George Podolin also mentioned the opportunity to collaborate with students organizations on this topic
- **Reneging on job offers** (Leader: George Podolin)
 - Members discussed an uptick in the trend of law students reneging on job offers and member George Podolin shared via Chat a previous article he had written on the topic

III. Work Group Reports

A. Annual Education Conference/*Bulletin+* Article & Webinar Planning/PDI (by Alex Piller)

We met on March 2nd for our fourth-quarter section meeting, and member Gina Sauer and I presented on navigating the RFP submission process and tips for success. We have asked our members for RFPs for both the 2022 Professional Development Institute (due May 20th) and the 2023 Annual Education Conference (due May 6th). The section meeting at this year’s Annual Education Conference on April 7th is likely to attract new members and RFP topics, and we will work with our members to help them choose the best topics, identify collaborators, and finalize and submit their proposals in advance of the deadlines. We will also solicit ideas for additional *Bulletin+* article submissions.

B. Law Student and Lawyer Professional Development Sections Collaboration (by Diana Mercer)

Vice Chair Mercer is currently out of the country and provided a report on her upcoming NALP presentation at AEC as follows: As I stated previously, one of our panelists, Pamela Cyr may not be able to participate because of travel restrictions. We have adapted our format to accommodate for three panelists, just in case. We are meeting Tuesday March 8 about the presentation and to go over a run through.

C. Professional Development Tool Kit (by Stacy Keehn)

The LSPD and Small and Solo Career Services Professional Development Tool Kit team is Stacy Keehn, Debbie Shapiro, Stacey Blakeman and Katie Overberg. The toolkit – which has taken the form of a checklist is now complete and incorporates feedback from the Chairs of both sections.

The working group's remaining outstanding piece to the toolkit is for Stacy Keehn to prepare an easily accessible sample program from uOttawa and for the group to add that link to the toolkit. We anticipate this last piece will be ready in early April

D. Membership Relations and Membership Development (by Elizabeth Carr)

We continue to strategize about creative ways to engage our members and increase membership in the Law Student Professional Development Section and really hope to be able to meet in person at the upcoming Annual Education Conference.

E. Professional Identity Formation (by Samantha Ciriaco)

I attended the March 2 LSPD Section meeting and accepted the position as the new Vice-Chair of this workgroup. I've been the Director of Professional Development and Career Counseling at Case Western Reserve University School of Law in Cleveland, Ohio since December 2021. Prior to that, I ran the externship and 3L Capstone Program at CWRU Law for the last 6 years.

At CWRU, I partner with our legal writing professors, and the professional development panels, presentations, and workshops I implement for students are integrated into the 1L and 2L legal writing curriculum. I recently met with two of the legal writing faculty about updates to the Professional Development component of the curriculum if adjustments are needed to cover professional identity formation. We will be tweaking our PD topics for 2Ls next year based on faculty feedback.

I am very excited to continue the efforts of this workgroup and meet more section members in New Orleans!

F. Knowledge Management and Resource Implementation (by Julie Peters)

This quarter I continued organizing the LSPD library and also added additional documents. To recap, my first quarter report listed the LSPD library as having a total of 37 documents, 13 of which were directly relevant to law student professional development. There are now 45 documents in the library, 16 of which directly relate to professional development.

To date, the library is organized as follows:

- NALP Law Student Professional Development Section
 - o Archive
- LSPD Section Work Group Groups
 - o Law Student and Lawyers Professional Development Sections Collaboration
- Helpful Documents
 - o Professional Development – Law School Class (3 documents)
 - o Interviewing (3 documents)
 - o Law Student Well-Being (1 document)
 - o Professionalism E-Guides (4 documents)

- Webinars (1 document)
- Favorite Resources (1 document)
- Law Student Oath of Professionalism (3 documents)
- Section Specific Work
 - Quarterly Reports
 - RFP & Bulletin Article Proposals
 - Section Call Notes & Newsletters

I believe the library is now much more user-friendly than when I started. Now that documents are easier to locate, I hope members will be encouraged to add additional documents to the library to increase our resources.