

MEMO

TO: Dana Morris

FROM: Josie Mitchell, NALP Law Student Professional Development Section Chair

CC: Fred Thrasher, NALP Deputy Director
LeaNora Ruffin, NALP President 2009-2010

RE: Law Student Professional Development Section Report

DATE: July 1, 2009

I. Proposals for NALP Conference Presentations and Bulletin Articles

I'm pleased to report that the NALP Law Student PD Section has submitted proposals for five Bulletin articles, and four Conference presentations. All five Bulletin articles have been accepted for publication, and we are hopeful that our conference proposals will be accepted also.

E-Networking Work Group

NALP Conference Presentations & Bulletin Articles

February—"E-Networking Part 1 – To Tweet or Not to Tweet"

June / July – "E-Networking Part 2 – Putting Your Best E-Footprint Forward"

Law Student PD Workgroup

NALP Conference Presentations

"Partners in Passing on Professionalism"

Bulletin Article

August -- "Best Practices in Law Student Professional Development"

Lawyer / Law Student Collaboration Work Group

NALP Conference Presentation

"Menage a Trois (It's Not What You're Thinking!) Partnering Together To Make a Successful Lawyer"

Bulletin Articles

January -- "How to Train Outsiders to Train Students", or "Working Together to Make a Successful Lawyer"

September -- "The Continuing Employer/Law School Professional Development Dialogue"

II. Work Group Updates

A. E-Networking Work Group

Has been extremely active, communicating with me on average 3 - 4 times per week. As a result of their recruiting efforts, and the recent message I sent to the Law School PD listserv seeking volunteers, four new members have joined the group. The timing for this work group is excellent, as there are regular news items about the pros and cons of the various social networking sites. Members are actively reaching out to the community, seeking opportunities to collaborate or build upon existing information.

Kristin Hulse (Georgetown) just returned from the CALI conference, where she attended a presentation on Social Media Best Practices for Law Schools. She wrote an excellent recap of her experience which she shared with the group, and included resources from the conference that will be helpful to review as the group develops an E-Guide .

B. Professionalism Standards and Curricula

Recently submitted their Bulletin article for publication in the August Bulletin. It was written using the data gathered last year in preparation for their Conference presentation, and includes additional information gathered during their session in DC.

C. Lawyer / Law Student Collaboration

Has been reaching out to more employer members to encourage their participation in the group and discuss future collaboration on projects. Dave Diamond is working on his Bulletin article for the September issue, titled "The Continuing Employer/Law School Professional Development Dialogue".

III. Environmental Scan

A. Regular reports of layoffs and deferred offers are still in the news, which is keeping career services offices busy as more students reach out for assistance. Many of us have received calls from grads that are struggling to find a position in this economy, despite their strong credentials, and are asking for support.

B. Firms are scaling back their summer associate hiring, and many are waiting until late summer to make a determination about participating in on-campus interviews. More large employers are using the Resume Collection feature, instead of scheduling on-campus interviews as they have in previous years.

C. Students are finding the judicial clerkship application process to be more competitive than usual, as current clerks are not able to find positions at firms and move on. Will this mean more "special recruitments" during the year?

D. Student professionalism continues to be a concern, and schools are being challenged to address some of these issues. This is much a broader issue than what career services can address. It will require collaboration with Dean's and faculty members to provide successful changes.