

From: Sandee Magliozzi, NALP Law Student Professional Development Section Chair

CC: Fred Thrasher, NALP Deputy Director
Carol Sprague, NALP President 2010-2011

Date: 10/22/2010

Re: Law Student Professional Development Section Report

Summary

It has been a busy Fall for most members of the section with OCI, additional student counseling and some staffing issues. The work load of members, including several of the work group vice-chairs has presented a significant challenge in moving several projects forward.

The Law Student and Lawyer Professional Development Collaboration Workgroup was not very active last year, so this workgroup was the focus this past quarter. The group is working with the NALP Foundation on the Experiential Learning Survey. And I am please to stay this has been a productive and successful collaboration that has made good progress.

Our other two work groups have asked for some better direction and if needed the possibility of a revisions to their deliverables. In an effort, to insure future progress toward our section goals and deliverables, the vice-chairs and I have discussed the need to assess where they are, what the next steps are, and any proposed revisions to projects and time-frames. In effect to reset where we are and look at what we can accomplish between now and April. I have also asked the vice-chairs to think about what additional help they need and how we might better engage members by articulating specific tasks that can be delegated.

We conducted our quarterly section call on October 13th. We had greater participation on the call this quarter than last. In additional to updating section members on work projects we discussed what information or tools might be helpful to the section. Members expressed an interest in learning more about the number and type of post-graduate mentoring and apprenticeship programs that have emerge in this new economic climate.

Our next section quarterly call is proposed for Jan. 26, 2011.

Work Group Updates

1. E-Professionalism and Social Networking

Despite a strong start over the summer with the publication of their Bulletin article "A Guide to E-Professionalism for Law Students: Five Steps to Create and Maintain a Professional

Online Persona.” The group has stalled over the Fall. We have agreed to reach out to members who had previously agreed to contribute to the E-Guide by drafting a chapter, to assess if they have completed their chapter, if they are still willing to write a chapter or if we need to find help getting chapters written. The vice chairs will follow up with a status chart and based on what we learn we will determine the best way to move forward.

2. Professionalism Standards

The hope of this group was to create two educational modules that can be customized for use with a variety of audiences that will allow member schools to expand their programming. There has not been much section response to the idea and/or a general consensus as to the topics and content for the modules. One suggestion was that we create a template for creating a module that might facilitate the process and provided guidance. I have discussed the issue with our Board Liaison and she has offered to assist and we will schedule a follow-up call with the vice-chairs.

3. Law Student and Lawyer Professional Development Sections Collaboration

I'm pleased the section's biggest initiative, an experiential learning survey, is moving forward. At the July board meeting the survey was approved and it was decided that NALP and the NALP Foundation would partner to administer the survey. Led by vice-chairs, Meg Rueter (law school) and Kris Butler (law firm) we have worked in collaboration with Tammy Patterson and Judy Collins to develop the survey instrument and to get the survey on-line.

A draft of the on-line survey is currently being beta tested by a small group and we expect that final survey will be sent to law firms via professional develop and recruitment administrators at the end of the month. The survey will remain open for four weeks and we expect to have final results at the end of the year, with plans to publish a NALP Bulletin article and possibly a webinar in the Spring.

Bulletin Articles

“Great Expectations: Managing the expectations of international LLM students” – Elizabeth “Tibby” Cali

Environmental Scan

The overwhelming theme seems to be the demanding work load most CSO offices are facing with increased student counseling, requests from alumni, hiring freezes or staff reductions. Many offices are feeling stretched to their limits in light of the legal employment market and are looking for creative ways to assist and reach more students with reduced or static resources. A second theme was a desire to better understand the skills and competencies legal employers are looking for and how to guide students in obtaining those skills and benchmark experiences.