

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: April 8, 2010

I recently sent an e-mail to the Law School PD Listserv, providing an update on the years activities, and encouraging attendance at our conference presentations. In addition to the recent survey from the NALP office about future activities, I also solicited ideas from the membership about projects they would like to propose for this group.

E-Professionalism & Social Networking Work Group

This group has been extremely active during the year, and the Co-Vice Chairs have asked for the opportunity to continue in their same role next year. After some discussion, it was decided to postpone the E-Guide publish date until after the Conference. It is now scheduled to be launched in August in connection with their next bulletin article which will provide a recap of their conference presentation. The Co-Vice Chairs have been discussing additional ideas they would like to explore next year, as well as creating an expanded E-Guide to include the new information. This is an ongoing project that our section should continue to support next year.

Conference presentations:

“E-Networking Part 1: To Tweet or Not to Tweet.”

“E-Networking Part 2: Putting Your Best E-Footprint Forward.”

NALP Bulletin Articles:

“E-Networking Part 1 – To Tweet or Not to Tweet, a Twitter Primer” – February 2010

“E-Networking Part 2 – Putting Your Best E-Footprint Forward” – August 2010

(E-Networking Guide will be published concurrently with the August article.)

Law Student PD Section Update

Despite discussions about career offices collaborating with other departments to develop curricula for teaching the elements of professionalism to students, members have not expressed a great deal of interest in joining this particular work group. Current membership, including Co-Vice Chairs is 4, compared with Law Student/Law Firm (8) and E-Professionalism (15). The group was disappointed to have their NALP Conference RFP declined, however Nancy Lochner, Co-Vice Chair, provided input for another presentation that is representing the work group (see below). This is the second year I have been involved with this group, and I believe there are some exciting project possibilities. The Co-Vice Chairs are strong, and are interested in working together to move the group projects forward. We have

discussed removing “curricula” from the work group title, as it reflects more academically focused activities that most career offices are not currently engaged in. We agreed it was time to shift away from curricula concerns and concentrate on the distinction between professionalism and professional development, and how law schools and law firms can work together. There are no ongoing projects for this group, making it easier to look for new opportunities around the proposed changes.

Conference Presentation:

“Employer Insiders: What Your Students Need to Know About Professionalism to Survive and Thrive”.

Bulletin Article: “Best Practices in Law Student Professional Development and Professionalism: Lessons From Your Colleagues” -- August 2009

Law Student/Lawyer Professional Development Collaboration Work Group

This group has had difficulty recruiting law firms willing to collaborate on their proposed projects. As suggested for the Professionalism Standards and Curricula Work Group, evaluating their current projects and clarifying the project goals would help them move forward. Assistance with recruiting law firm members for and facilitating collaboration would prove beneficial. The last conference call held by this group generated several new and interesting ideas. I recommend reviewing them during the section meeting at the conference, when it is hoped additional law firm members will volunteer to join the section and collaborate on projects.

Conference Presentation:

“Partnering Together to Make a Successful Lawyer”

NALP Bulletin Article:

"Ensuring Presentations by Practicing Lawyers Engage Students" -- January 2010

Environmental Scan

This has been a challenging year for everyone as we adjust to changes in on-campus recruiting, timing guidelines, law firm compensation structures, and shifting needs in practice areas. Firms have indicated that lateral hiring is increasing, and many firms/organizations have picked up work. However, they are still being cautious about hiring summer associates. Responses to fall recruiting invitations have been slow, as employers appear to be waiting longer to assess what their needs might be for next year. At the UW, we are doing more outreach to alumni in an effort to create opportunities for students. Other section members have reported they are engaged in greater outreach as well. We are all hoping that hiring will pick up in time for on-campus interviews.