

MEMORANDUM

To: Jennifer Gewertz, Board Liaison

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

From: Legal Employer Alumni Relations/Programs Section Leadership Team
Claire Roath and Erin Warner, Co-Chairs

Date: January 9, 2026

Re: January Board Report, NALP Legal Employer Alumni Relations/Programs
Section

Leadership Team

Co-Chairs:

- Clare Roath, Troutman Pepper Locke, clare.roath@troutman.com
- Erin Warner, Troutman Pepper Locke, erin.warner@troutman.com

Vice Chair:

- Mari Foster, David Polk Wardell, mari.foster@davispolk.com

Annual Education Conference/Bulletin+ Article and Webinar Planning Vice Chair:

- Sarah Owens Willig, Winston & Strawn, sowenswillig@winston.com

Career Transitions Working Group Vice Chair:

- Matthew Pascoello, Akin Gump, mpascoello@akingump.com

Member Relations, Vice Chair:

- Debby Caldwell, Winston & Strawn, dcaldwell@winston.com

Well-Being Champion:

- Philip Sanford, Freshfields, philip.Sanford@freshfields.com

Diversity Liaison:

- Sylvia James, Winston & Strawn, syames@winston.com

Quarterly Section Call Overview

The Section Meeting was held on December 4, 2025, with 33 participants.

Welcome and Announcements

- Clare opened the meeting by welcoming all attendees.
- Debby Cusumano Caldwell introduced and welcomed new section members.
- Erin congratulated and thanked Bulletin authors and Conference presenters.
- Erin thanked those who joined the PeoplePath presentation on Law Firm Specific Results from the 2025 Corporate Alumni Benchmarking Report and noted that the recording is available for those who could not attend.

Updates from Section Vice Chairs & Liaisons

DEI Liaison for Alumni Relations Section

Presenter: Sylvia James, Chief Opportunity and Inclusion Officer at Winston & Strawn

Sylvia was unable to attend.

Well-Being Champion

Presenter: Phil Sanford

Phil didn't have any updates to share at this meeting but will circle back with updates after that section meets on December 16.

Career Transitions Section Liaison

Presenter: Matthew Pascoello, Career Transitions Advisor at Akin Gump

Matt is working with Clare and Erin to revive the working group, which he described will focus on populations within law firms undergoing career transitions which could include lawyers leaving the firm (i.e., those becoming alumni) or alumni transitioning careers. Invited interested members to connect.

Annual Education Conference/Bulletin+ Article & Webinar Planning Vice Chair:

Presenter: Sarah Owens Willig

Sarah reported that all the Alumni Section's submissions were accepted for the AEC. She also shared which Bulletin articles were selected.

Board Liaison for Alumni Relations Section

Presenter: Jen Gewertz

Jen reported that there were no major updates from the NALP Board at this time. She shared that registration for the AEC will open in December and that an Alumni Section meeting will also be scheduled during the conference.

Open Discussion / Presentation

- Review of NALP Connect posts from section members including job descriptions, firm classifications for foreign temp employees, alumni awards, and post-event form templates or surveys.
- Top of mind considerations for wrapping 2025 and planning for 2026 and budgets
- Recent wins, upcoming endeavors, and new resources
- What's new with ROI, AI, and retirees
- Discussion about which alumni teams work with dedicated data professionals and how that is structured

Reminders

- Clare reminded members that NALPConnect is the primary method of communication for the Section
 - Asked members to review and update their NALP profiles and notification preferences
 - Reminded members to check NALPConnect to review previous topics and post fresh inquiries or follow ups

- Announced that the 2026 Annual Education Conference will be held in Hollywood, FL from April 14-17, 2026 (Diplomat Hotel). Registration to open soon.

Upcoming Section Meetings

- Thursday, February 5th at 12:00 p.m.
- In-Person at NALP's Annual Education Conference – Date and Time TBD

Meeting adjourned