

## 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: March 20, 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](mailto:clare.roath@troutman.com)
- Erin Warner, Troutman Pepper Locke, [erin.warner@troutman.com](mailto:erin.warner@troutman.com)

Vice Chair:

- Mari Foster, David Polk Wardell, [mari.foster@davispolk.com](mailto:mari.foster@davispolk.com)

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

- Sarah Owens Willig, Winston & Strawn, [sowenswillig@winston.com](mailto:sowenswillig@winston.com)

Career Transitions Working Group Vice Chair:

- Matthew Pascoello, Akin Gump, [mpascoello@akingump.com](mailto:mpascoello@akingump.com)

Member Relations, Vice Chair:

- Debby Caldwell, Winston & Strawn, [dcaldwell@winston.com](mailto:dcaldwell@winston.com)

Well-Being Champion:

- Philip Sanford, Freshfields, [philip.Sanford@freshfields.com](mailto:philip.Sanford@freshfields.com)

Diversity Liaison:

- Sylvia James, Winston & Strawn, [syames@winston.com](mailto:syames@winston.com)

### Quarterly Section Call Overview

The Section Meeting was held on February 5, 2026, with 40 participants.

#### Welcome and Announcements

- Clare opened the meeting by welcoming all attendees.
- Debby Cusumano Caldwell introduced and welcomed new section members.

#### Brief Overview - Annual Education Conference

- Runs from Tuesday, April 14 to Friday, April 17
- Link to register: Summary - 2026 NALP Annual Education Conference
- Check out the NALP website for information, resources, and the conference agenda

- Overview of the alumni sessions and activities, including a section happy hour, section dinner, and plans to meet at the karaoke/game night event.

## **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 shared details for an upcoming wellness webinar ET, titled "From Data to Action: Roadmap for Reshaping Perfectionist Workplace Cultures." Phil posted details in the discussion portal and encouraged attendance.

### **Career Transitions Section Liaison**

**Presenter: Matthew Pasocello, Career Transitions Advisor at Akin Gump**

Matt thanked those who expressed an interest in helping with the section. He is gathering information on those interested in participating in calls and is working to schedule a meeting schedule.

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

**Presenter: Sarah Owens Willig**

No updates.

### **Board Liaison for Alumni Relations Section**

**Presenter: Jen Gewertz**

Jen did not have any announcements to share and encouraged section members to consider volunteering for leadership roles within the section and NALP.

### **Leadership Updates for 2026-2027**

Erin announced that Mari Foster and Sarah Owens Willig volunteered to be section co-chairs next year and that Matthew Pasocello will continue as Career Transitions Working Group Vice Chair. She will post open roles on NALP Connect, noted that she and Clare will be available for any questions, and encouraged volunteering. Jen Gewertz shared that she will be rolling off the NALP board and a new board member will be assigned to the section.

### **Open Discussion / Presentation**

- Discussion about whether career coaches are required to check conflicts before offering career coaching services. Included conversation about alumni signing "no harm" terms and conditions or waivers before they receive coaching services.
- Conversation about how coaching focuses are split between associates and alumni.
- Request for an alumni coach job description.

- Discussion about how “alumni on the move” information is distributed, and which firm audience(s) receive those announcements.
- What’s new with ROI, AI, and retirees
- Discussion about which alumni teams work with dedicated data professionals and how that is structured

### **Reminders**

- 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**

- In-Person at NALP’s Annual Education Conference – Thursday, April 16 time and room location TBD

### **Meeting adjourned**