

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
Mari Foster, Vice Chair

Date: October 14, 2025

Re: October 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 September 30, 2025, with 43 participants.

Welcome and Announcements

- Clare opened the meeting by welcoming all attendees and welcoming back Mari Foster, Alumni Section Vice Chair and Director of Business Development and Alumni Relations at Davis Polk & Wardwell and Hayley Niven, former Alumni Section Co-Chair and Senior Manager, Brand Programs at Borden Ladner Gervais.
- Debby Cusumano Caldwell introduced and welcomed new section members.
- Erin made the following announcements:

- Law School Alumni Advising is a new interest group open to all NALP members and geared toward those with an interest in or responsibility for advising law school grads
- PeoplePath will host its annual workshop in New York City on October 10, 2025
- Jenn Pedde at PeoplePath will present law firm specific details from the Annual Corporate Alumni Benchmarking Report on November 5, 2pm EST
- PDI Conference scheduled for December 4-5

Updates from Section Vice Chairs & Liaisons

Well-Being Champion

Presenter: Phil Sanford

Phil shared about a webinar hosted by the Wellbeing Section called “Zen Mode: Minimize Distractions & Maximize Focus Confirmation.” The webinar covered topics such as neuroplasticity, the limits of multitasking and the residual costs of mental shifting. Phil said he will post a link to the webinar on NALP Connect and encouraged everyone to watch it.

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

Presenter: Sarah Owens Willig

Sarah provided an update on article and RFP submissions by the Section. The Section submitted five articles to NALP Bulletin+. All were selected and will be published between October 2025 and March 2026. The Section also submitted four RFPs for the AEC and are waiting to hear on which have been selected.

Board Liaison for Alumni Relations Section

Presenter: Jen Gewertz

Jen provided an update from the last NALP Board meeting. At that meeting the Board approved the budget for the upcoming fiscal year. The budget includes investments in technology, specifically upgrading the NALP website. The Board also adopted a policy prohibiting the use of artificial intelligence to take notes during NALP meetings unless previously approved by the Board or a NALP staff member.

The DEI Liaison for Alumni Relations Section and Career Transitions Section Liaison were not present to provide updates.

Open Discussion / Presentation

- Boomerang Hires
- Alumni Academy resource via Enterprise Alumni
- Event ideas for smaller offices

Reminders

- Erin 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.
- November 5th at 2:00 EST: Presentation by Jenn Pedde on law firm specific details from the Annual Corporate Alumni Benchmarking Report
- Phil Sanford mentioned that he is speaking at Legal Marketing Association's upcoming Northeast conference on "Associate Lifecycle: The Legal Industry's Take on Corporate Alumni Strategy"

Upcoming Section Meetings

- Thursday, December 4th at 12:00 p.m.
- Thursday, February 5th at 12:00 p.m.
- In-Person at NALP's Annual Education Conference – Date and Time TBD

Meeting adjourned