

# MEMORANDUM

## NALP Newer Professionals Section

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To: Lynn Herron, NALP Board Liaison  
Fred Thrasher, NALP Deputy Director

From: Amber Brugnoli  
Assistant Dean for Continuing Legal Education  
West Virginia University College of Law  
Chair, Newer Professional Section

Date: March 29, 2017

Re: NALP Newer Professionals Section Board Report – 4th Quarter

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### SUMMARY

Due to the timing of this report and Amber's recent transition to a non-NALP position, the section was not able to hold its last Quarterly Call of the year before March 30<sup>th</sup>. The call is scheduled for April 6<sup>th</sup> at 3pm EST. During the call, the new section chair for 2017, Sandi Minea, will be recognized and reminders about the Annual Conference Orientation, New Member table, and section meeting will be discussed.

### WORK GROUPS

#### ***Annual Education Conference Presenters Work Group***

Vice Chairs: Lindsae Gogulski (Fox Rothschild) and Maria Saez-Statman (University of Oregon)  
The NPS is sponsoring two sessions at the Conference, as detailed below. Additionally, section members will be speaking on panels sponsored by other sections.

#### "Building Law Student Resilience: Practical Tools for Programming and Counseling"

*Jordana Laporte, Sarah Rohne*

Law students often struggle to overcome hurdles or bounce back from setbacks, both personal and professional. Through various studies, it is clear that the skills that underpin resilience can be learned over time. Thus, law students can develop and leverage these critical skills to heighten their performance, academically and professionally and succeed in their demanding legal careers. This session will educate attendees about the science surrounding resiliency, including grit and growth mindset and positive psychology, and provide concrete tools for law school career development professionals to build resiliency skills in their students through programming ideas and counselling techniques.

#### "Keep the Train on the Tracks: Identifying Bar Risks to Prevent Derailment"

*Amber Brugnoli, Tony Waller, Greg Miarecki, Ray English*

(Due to a job change, I am no longer able to attend the conference. Tony Waller has taken over as lead presenter for this panel.)

Just as employment numbers start to improve, bar passage rates continue to drop. In order to prevent a significant number of unlicensed job seekers, CSOs must work to ensure their voice is heard, from admissions decisions, through graduation, and beyond. The impact bar exam outcomes have on law

school rankings—both directly and through secondary effects—makes it imperative that schools identify and engage students at risk of failure. This panel will outline steps taken at four different schools to determine trends in bar passage, the measures taken to improve outcomes, and how the CSO added value to the discussion.

### ***NALP Bulletin Articles Work Group***

Vice Chairs: Laura Fischer (Whyte Hirschboek Dudek) and Desiree Jaeger-Fine (Jaeger-Fine Consulting)

We have successfully submitted a Newcomer's Corner for every month this year, as well as two feature articles. (Paula Gluzman even submitted her feature article while in labor!) Three section members have also written articles for other sections.

At the request of Janet Smith, we also obtained volunteers to write articles for the May-Aug time frame, since this can often be overlooked during the transition period. The results were amazing, with more than enough volunteers coming forward. As a result, Newcomer's Corner pieces are already set through September, 2017!

### ***"Ask the Experts" Work Group***

Vice Chairs: Courtney Dredde (Jenner & Block) and Sheryl Roberts (Smith, Anderson, Blount, Dorsett, Mitchell & Jernigan) Both Courtney and Sheryl, as well as their Experience Professionals section liaisons, are to be commended for their continued dedication to getting webinars produced this year. One item of continuing discussion is whether webinars should be produced as frequently as once a quarter, since there have been struggles to obtain recommendations over the last two years, and most members feel the general NALP offerings are quite sufficient. As discussed in our last report, since the EPS is exploring an "Advice I'd Give My Younger Self" series that seemed to generate a great deal of interest on our last call, perhaps "As the Experts" should be transitioned/re-framed under this newer model.

### ***Integration Work Group***

Vice Chair: Sandra Minea (Northwestern)

As conference registration continues, we will be working with NALP to identify section members attending the Annual Conference to see if they would like a "conference buddy" to help them navigate the various offerings. Sandy and Courtney Dredde will also be manning the Section table at the opening reception, and—as the in-coming Chair—Sandy is attending the Orientation meeting for first-time attendees.

## **OTHER UPDATES**

I have already moved into a non-NALP position, so sadly, this will be my last official NALP communication for the foreseeable future. I cannot thank NALP enough for its support and dedication to its members. Without you, I would not have been successful at my previous job, to the point I was recognized and selected for another opportunity. I am grateful to each and every person who spoke to me, answered my questions, and just extended a warm and welcoming hand. My very best to everyone!!!