

MEMORANDUM

NALP Newer Professionals Section

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

From: Amber Brugnoli
Assistant Dean for Career Services
West Virginia University College of Law
Chair, Newer Professional Section

Date: February 2, 2017

Re: NALP Newer Professionals Section Board Report – 3rd Quarter

SUMMARY

Our recent quarterly call highlighted both the good work various section members are doing and the continuing need to bring new NALP members on board as soon as possible. Two of our callers had been members of NALP for just a few weeks and had several questions about processes, conferences, networking, etc. We stressed the openness and friendliness of NALP and encouraged everyone—particularly new folks—to attend conferences like the Newer Professionals Forum. I also gave everyone the date and time of our section meeting in San Francisco.

WORK GROUPS

Annual Education Conference Presenters Work Group

Vice Chairs: Lindsay Gogulski (Fox Rothschild) and Maria Saez-Statman (University of Oregon)

The NPS submitted five RFPs for consideration, and two were selected. The chosen seminars are detailed below. Additionally, a few section members will be speaking on panels sponsored by other sections. During the call, we reminded the section that the RFP process for 2018 will be starting soon, so it was not too early to think about possible topics.

“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. We are currently recruiting volunteers to cover the May-Aug 2017 Newcomer’s Corners, since these issues often get dropped during the transition period.

Newcomer’s Corners

- July 2016: Maureen Tracy Leo, Boston University School of Law: “Developing Networking Contacts Over the Academic Year”
- September 2016: Amber Brugnoli, WVU College of Law: “Preparing for ABA Reaccreditation Site Visits”
- October 2016: Kathryn E. Van de Weghe, Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz: “Handling Your Own Professional Development”
- November 2016: Katrina Denny, Southwestern Law School: “ABA Protocols and Outcomes Reportings”
- December 2016: Lauren Seffel, George Mason University School of Law: “Building Rapport with Students When Stepping Into Counseling Mid-Year”
- January 2017: Laura Fischer, Whyte Hirschboek Dudek: “Associate Transparency in Professional Development”
- February 2017: Dana Neiswander, Michael Best & Friedrich: TBD
- March 2017: Tisha Browning, Adapting a Public Interest Resume to a Firm
- April 2017: Aubrey Johnson, Whyte Hirschboek Dudek: “Tips for Managing Multi-Office Summer Programs”

Feature Articles

- January 2017: Paula Gluzman, University of San Diego: “Getting Involved in Law School City Groups”
- TBD: Lauren Seffel, George Mason University School of Law: “Crafting Survey Questions”

“Ask the Experts” Work Group

Vice Chairs: Courtney Dredden (Jenner & Block) and Sheryl Roberts (Smith, Anderson, Blount, Dorsett, Mitchell & Jernigan)

Not many people submitted webinar ideas, leading to a discussion regarding whether the webinars should still be attempted quarterly, or cut back to twice a year. Three topics were eventually proposed, though not until the Fall, and two were on topics NALP already planned to cover: the job market and conference tips for newcomers. As a result, another call for topics was put out, with slightly better results. The first webinar will be on Effectively Engagement Your Students, Feb 14th @ 2pm EST. The second is just a month later, March 15th @ 2pm EST, and will be on Interviewing Skills for US, not just our students. Both Courtney and Sheryl, as well as their Experience Professionals section liaisons, are to be commended for their continued dedication to getting webinars produced.

Integration Work Group

Vice Chair: Sandra Minea (Northwestern)

Sandy coordinated with the NALP staff and is reaching out to new members as they join to ensure they are getting off on the right foot. Additionally, 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.

OTHER UPDATES

We are collecting ideas for the Experienced Professionals Section new offering, “Advice I’d Give My Younger Self.” This actually generated several suggestions from the group just during the call, so transitioning the Ask the Experts series to something like this is a distinct possibility. I think asking people to reflect on their own experience, versus asking them what they want to know, promotes more interaction and discussion.

Since I will not be able to attend the conference (sadly, I am leaving NALP to take a position in the CLE realm), I am reaching out to my Vice-Chairs to both help at the orientation meeting and to run our section’s table at the networking event.

THANK YOU!!!