

MEMORANDUM

Date: April 11, 2011

To: Beth Moeller, Board Liaison, Newer Professionals Section

From: Amy Perez, Chair, Newer Professionals Section

Email: agperez@law.miami.edu

Direct: (305) 284-1924

Re: Newer Professionals Section Fourth Quarter Board Report

This report describes the progress of the Newer Professionals Section in the fourth quarter of the 2010-2011 NALP term.

Fourth Quarter Section Conference Call

On March 30, 2011 the Section held its fourth quarterly conference call. I first covered programming and events scheduled for the 2011 Annual Education Conference of particular interest to NALP newcomers. Specifically, the:

- Newcomer's Orientation – Tuesday, April 27th, 5:30 – 6:00 PM
- Section meeting – Thursday, April 28th, 8:00 – 9:00 AM
- Happy hour – Thursday, April 28th, 5:30 – 6:30 PM (before the Member Celebration)

I also highlighted the three concurrent sessions pertaining to leadership, as well as the free conference Application that's available for download off the NALP site.

Because I knew that several new NALP members would be on the call, I also requested that each Vice Chair provide an overview of the Work Group's charge and a brief summary of their responsibilities as Vice Chair. In addition, the Work Group Vice Chairs advised the Section regarding recent and upcoming programming, reports, articles, etc... I informed the members that we are short on Newcomer's Corner articles and encouraged them to submit an article as a valuable yet low-commitment way to put their toe in the water with NALP. A request was also made by several members to have the Section Spotlight Work Group Reports posted on the NALP website (perhaps on the NP Section page or on the Shared Resource Pool), regarding which I have already followed up with Lisa Quirk. While several minutes were set aside for environmental scanning, the group was quiet this time so I ended the call by thanking everyone for their participation on the call and throughout the year.

Section Work Group Updates

NALP Bulletin Article Work Group

Vice Chair: Amy Lefkowitz, Barry University, Dwayne O. Andreas School of Law

The following four Newcomer's Corner articles have been published in the NALP Bulletin since the last Board Report:

- March - Thomas Ksobiech, "Righting the Writing Wrongs of the Cover Letter"
- April – Kimberly S. Deboer, "Pointers for Making Callback Interviews as Painless as Possible"

Moving forward, Newcomer's Corner articles are scheduled through May 2011 as follows (exact titles TBD):

- May - Alexandra Mai, Law Firm Professionalism **or** Professional Development Programs and their Role/Effect on Attorney Retention
- July – Alexandra Mai, topic TBD

We also have one one-page article scheduled for publication:

- May - Sara Schramm, "Educating Students about Alternative Legal Careers"

Annual Education Conference Presenters Work Group

Vice Chair: Linda Spagnola, North Carolina Central University School of Law

During the last Section conference call, Linda once again encouraged members to begin thinking now about programs for the 2012 Annual Education Conference. She pointed out the short, one month window of time between the 2011 conference and the May 20th 2012 RFP deadline and highlighted the AEC program, "How to Submit a Strong Conference Proposal."

NALP Integration ("Section Spotlight") Work Group

Vice Chair: Anna Friesenhahn, Cox Smith

After almost a full year of section interviews and Spotlight reports, the NALP Integration Work Group provided a great service to our newer professional members. First, the Work Group members had the rewarding experience of interviewing a section chair of their choice, writing a synopsis of their conversation and distributing their work to the entire Newer Professional section. These tasks served the important functions of facilitating learning by providing valuable information to others and introducing the Work Group member to the rest of the Section. As our Section is comprised of future NALP leaders, I see this as a notable benefit of the workgroup.

The following Section Spotlight Reports were circulated to the Section since the last Board Report:

- Juliette Clark of McGlinchey Stafford interviewed Erin Springer of Alston + Bird for the Recruiting Section
- Nichole Velasquez of the University of Maryland interviewed Holly Brajcich of the Solo & Small CSO section

The following Section Spotlight is forthcoming:

- Markeisha Miner of the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law's interview of Clara Solomon of NYU for the International & Advanced Degree & Advising section

Ask the Experts Conference Call Series Work Group

*Vice Chairs: Tom Ksobiech, University of Alabama School of Law
Alexandra Mai, Vinson & Elkins, LLP*

This term, the Ask the Experts Work Group held five scheduled programs, including two conference calls and three webinars. Participation ranged from 50 – 100 attendees per session and included those from within the Newer Professionals Section and beyond. The last webinar on core competencies introduced a polling feature that allowed participants to respond to questions posted by the presenters throughout the program. Members "...loved the interactive questions during the call," as this made them feel more engaged and allowed them to hear what other members are doing at their law firms.

At the conclusion of each program, an anonymous survey was distributed to the members asking for feedback and ideas on future programming. Survey results indicate that members preferred Webinars to conference calls because the format allowed participants to follow along more easily as the presenters transitioned through each PP slide.

Moreover, members have expressed their appreciation that the webinars were recorded and posted on the NALP Web site. The work group has compiled the surveys and would be happy to share them with future vice-chairs.

2010-2011 Ask the Experts Series Summary

Law Firm Expert Conference Call: ***Pathways to Leadership: How to add value to your organization and manage your career*** presented by Eva Wisnik on October 14, 2010

Law School Expert Conference Call: ***Public Interest 101*** presented by Terry Galligan and Steve Grumm on November 18, 2010

Law Firm Expert Webinar: ***Exercise Inclusion: Building the Foundation*** presented by Alphonzo Grant on December 7, 2010

Law School Expert Webinar: ***Lawyers in the Government: A Primer on Opportunities for Law Students and Graduates in Federal Jobs*** presented by Paula Nailon on January 26, 2011

Law Firm Expert Webinar: *Core Competencies in the Law Firm Interviewing* presented by Diane Downs and Bruce Elvin on February 18, 2011

In addition, Alexandra Mai authored the Ask the Experts Blog. Each blog post included a summary of the presentation, links to the materials and a recording of the webinar, if applicable.

Going Forward

Tom Ksobiech has accepted the Chair position for the 2011-2012 term. Tom has made valuable contributions to the Newer Professionals Section for several years now and will undoubtedly do a great job as the new Section Chair. It will be my pleasure to assist in any way necessary next term as the Immediate Past Chair. I am grateful for the opportunity to have served as Chair for the 2010-2011 term and for the hard work and dedication put forth by the Section Work Group Vice Chairs and Members. I thank you for your on-going support and guidance, and welcome any feedback from the Board of Directors.

Sincerely,

Amy Perez
Chair, Newer Professionals Section

cc: Fred Thrasher, NALP Deputy Director