

TO: Rebecca Calman, Board Liaison  
CC: Fred Thrasher, Deputy Director  
FROM: Olivia Schmit, Newer Professional Section Chair  
DATE: Thursday, June 25, 2020  
RE: NALP Newer Professional Section Quarterly Board Report, July 2020

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## **SUMMARY**

One of my goals for this year is to connect with and encourage newer members of the section (and NALP) to get involved. We worked towards that goal by hosting a well-attended section call via Zoom, by brainstorming a variety of ideas to engage new members, by assigning vice chairs for all work groups, and doing environmental scanning. Overall, we have enthusiastic members who are eager to get more involved, but our members are feeling apprehensive about the uncertain future in this current environment.

## **SECTION CALL**

We held our section kick-off call was hosted via Zoom on Thursday, May 7, 2020. Participation was great and we were able to discuss a number of topics, outlined below. One new member spoke to me individually after the call eager to volunteer but was hesitant given her new member status

The agenda for the kick-off call is below:

- Introduction and Welcome
- Introduction to Board Liaison and Board Update
- Review of Work Groups and Call for Volunteers
  - NALP Integration/Member Relations
  - Expert Conference Calls/Webinars/Advice
  - Bulletin Article Planning
  - Annual Education Conference Planning
  - Q&A with an Experienced Professional
  - Knowledge Management
- 2021 Annual Education Conference and RFP Discussion
- Open Discussion

I was able to solicit 1-2 vice-chairs for each work group by the end of the call. I reached out individually to the vice-chairs of each work group to offer resources and assistance with their charges. Below, I have outlined updates for each work group.

## **WORK GROUPS**

### NALP Integration/Member Relations

Vice Chairs: Elizabeth Crane (University of South Carolina) and Kayla Doiron (University of Oklahoma)

I was able to make Elizabeth and Kayla administrators on our NALPconnect site. This way, they will have access to member reports. They are working with Heather Park (Sidley Austin) to strategize different ways to engage new members.

### Expert Conference Calls/Webinars/Advice

Vice Chair: Heather Park (Sidley Austin)

I reached out to Heather as well as the vice-chairs of the *Q&A with an Experienced Professional* work group in order to connect them with Sheryl Roberts of the Experienced Professionals Section. They are currently working together to brainstorm potential webinar topics and gather questions from the section to ask experienced professionals.

### Bulletin Article Planning

Vice Chair: Ginny Mueller (Husch Blackwell)

Ginny used NALPconnect to solicit volunteers for upcoming bulletin articles. Below are the article proposals that were submitted to Andrew Parker.

<b>Proposed Issue Month</b>	<b>Tentative Topic</b>
September 2020	Starting a New Job During COVID-19
October 2020	Tricks or Treats? How to Demystify the Newcomer's Process
November 2020	Returning to Career Services
December 2020	Looking Back: Advice I Would Give My New Professional Self
January 2021	Guiding Attorneys on Holistic Candidate Consideration

With a changing environment, Ginny and Andrew decided to re-evaluate some of the 2021 topics this fall when we (hopefully) will have a better sense of what will be relevant.

### Annual Conference Planning

Vice Chair: Ben Franklin (Nutter)

On our kick-off call, the group discussed potential RFP ideas. Because our section consists of newer professionals, we decided to think of topics that we would want to learn more about and that we could ask other members of NALP to present. We brainstormed the below topics:

- Counseling Students to Write Effective Cover Letters
- How to Effectively Pitch New Ideas to Leadership
- A New Recruiting Timeline: What to Do In Slow Times

Ben and I will be working within our networks to find potential speakers for these topics to submit on behalf of our section.

Q&A with an Experienced Professional

Vice Chairs: Ashley Julian (Paul Hastings) and Christine Tarr (Southwestern Law School)

Ashley and Christine are currently working closely with Heather Park and Sheryl Roberts to brainstorm questions to ask experienced professionals.

Knowledge Management

Vice Chair: Caitlin Raybourn (Kelley Drye)

Caitlin was connected with leaders of the Knowledge Management task force to begin reviewing content on the site. She is currently helping the group to identify which content would be most relevant to the Newer Professionals section, and will move to the beginning stages of cataloging content when they next meet as a task force.

**ENVIRONMENTAL SCANNING**

At the end of our call, we had an open discussion about challenges that law students and career services professionals will face and the changing of workloads and priorities for both law firm and career services professionals.

A sentiment among of couple of newer professionals on the call was disappointment that they wouldn't be able to experience coordinating an in-person program. For some, they prepared themselves for a familiar process but will not have to shift their mindset to working in unfamiliar territory.

Law school professionals noted that they have been very busy pivoting their efforts to focus on assisting students who no longer have summer positions. Many schools are working to create programs/clinics in order for students to obtain some work experience no matter how little.

Overall, with unprecedented times, most participants felt apprehensive about the future but felt grateful for all the shared resources provided by NALP members.