

To: NALP Board of Directors
From: Nicole Vikan, Chair, NALP Public Service Section
Date: July 3, 2009
Re: First Quarterly Report

The Public Service Section held its annual meeting at the NALP Conference in Washington, DC on April 4, 2009. The minutes of that meeting were shared with the Public Service Section e-mail discussion list.

We have five Work Groups; below please find a summary of each Group's work: 2010 NALP Annual Conference Proposal Submissions; Federal Job-seeking Resources; Monitoring the Recession's Impact on the Public Service Job Market; Publications; and Public Service Mini-Conference Planning.

WORK GROUP REPORTS

2010 NALP Annual Conference Proposal Submissions

Work Group Members: Cybele Smith (Ohio State—Chair), Andrew Chapin (Fordham), Tom Schoenherr (Fordham), Jessica Mehl (Toledo), Cindy Wilson (Northwestern), Sean Rhiney (Cincinnati)

Cybele Smith submitted the following update: "The RFP work group reached out to Section members via direct phone calls, mass emails and individual email outreach. A number of programs were deemed better suited for the Mini-Conference and that information was shared with Jarrod Shirk, the appropriate Work-Group leader. After much discussion, six solid programs were submitted for the San Juan planning team to consider. I think all are relevant and well-developed and should get full consideration by the planning team."

1. "Uncle Sam Wants You": Exploring the scope and breadth of legal career opportunities offered by The Judge Advocate General's Corps. Alfred Ray English, Afsana Ahmed, Eric McDonald, Holly Bryant
2. Deferred Associates and Public Sector Placements: Looking back and building relationships. Michelle Stevens, Kelly S. Mixon, Jennifer Thomas, Cybele E. Smith
3. External support for public service initiatives: Meet the CAPSILS Team. Charlene Gomes, Steve Grumm, Melanie Kushnir, Arlene Rivera Finkelstein
4. Law School Pro Bono Toolbox: A Nuts and Bolts Approach to Program Development. Melanie Kushnir, Marni Lennon, Tom Maligno, Kristin Erickson
5. Public Interest Workshop - What's Working, What's Not, & Hot Topics. Andrew Chapin, Stuart Smith, Nicole Vikan, Valerie Kapilow
6. Tips and Tricks for Getting Into Government. Tari Williams, Dena Bauman, Tamara Brooks, Gail Johnson

Federal Job-seeking Resources

Work Group Members: Donna Miller (Illinois), Dena Bauman (UDC), Judy Corello (William & Mary), Toni St. John (Maryland), Jessica Mehl (Toledo), Heather DiFranco (Case Western), and Alyssa Dragnich (PSU/Dickinson)

This Work Group is currently working on two projects:

1. Review the content of the PSLawNet government resources page to decide which content will go into a smaller, printable version of the webpage; and adapt this information as the 2009 PSLawNet Federal Legal Opportunities Guide. The purpose of the Guide is to provide a free hard-copy resource.

2. Develop a short resource guide on how to complete KSA sections when applying specifically for attorney or law-related positions in federal government.

Monitoring the Recession's Impact on the Public Service Job Market

Work Group Members: Carol Vizzier (Washington University), Rachel Dawson (John Marshall), Nicole Clark (U. Texas), Alisa Rosales (DePaul—Chair), Judy Corello (William & Mary), Cindy Wilson (Northwestern), Michelle Harper (Suffolk), Melanie Kushnir (ABA), and Ericka Hines (EJW)

Vice-Chair Alisa Rosales offered this report: “This group has been formed to keep an eye on local, regional, and national trends on the impact on public interest employment. . . .[T]he group has. . .proposed a bulletin article for publication in March [the article was accepted]. During [a] conference call [held July 1, 2009], we discuss[ed] in which ways we want to reach out to other public service advisers to assess impact not only on employment in the general public interest arena, but also the impact of deferred associates into public interest organizations and the advising load in our offices.” A second conference call has been scheduled for late September.

Publications

Work Group Members: Jennifer Flexner (Tulsa), Nicole Ayala (U. Conn), Jessica Mehl (Toledo), Susan DeCostanza (Chicago-Kent), Teresa Schmiedeler (U. Maryland), and Heather DiFranco (Case Western—Chair)

Heather DiFranco organized the following slate of articles, all of which were accepted:

Feature Articles:

September 2009 Issue

Submission Deadline: August 5, 2009

Tentative title: Leveraging Law Student Energy for Rural Justice

Author: Salena Copeland, EJW Fellow at the Public Interest Clearinghouse (scopeland@pic.org; 415-834-0100, ext. 302); Sidebar by EJW (Caryn Zaner, communications-temp@equaljusticeworks.org; 202-466-3686 ext. 143)

Summary: Profile of the Rural Education and Access to the Law (REAL) Project at the Public Interest Clearinghouse, a California nonprofit support center. Salena will cover REAL's history, challenges, and successes in connecting California's urban law students with California's underserved rural community via rural service learning trips. She will also include information on how the program could be replicated in other schools and/or states. (Will also include a sidebar or column written by an EJW staffer about the new AmeriCorps funding money that EJW has received and what it means for the Fellows programs.)

October 2009 Issue:

Submission Deadline: September 5, 2009

Tentative Title: "What would you do if... : Surviving Stress Interviews"

Author: Nicole Ayala ((860) 570-5324; nicole.ayala@law.uconn.edu)

Summary: Ideas on preparing students for "stress interviews." A stress interview is an interviewing strategy often used by Legal Services and Public Defenders offices, among others, designed to evaluate how candidates handle the type of stressors found in the workplace. Students have to be prepared not only to talk about themselves, but to answer some very tough hypothetical questions while remaining calm, cool and collected. This type of interview takes even more preparation than most, but is rarely announced to the candidate ahead of time. Thus, helping students learn how to diagnose a stress interview while its happening and then successfully answer the questions is a key part of their skill-building.

February 2010 Issue:

Submission Deadline: January 5, 2010

Tentative Title: Counseling the Public International Law Student

Author: Lorri Olan (olanl@wlu.edu; 540-458-8534)

Summary: This article will explore the best practices for advising students seeking to build careers in the human rights and public international law world.

March 2010 Issue:

Submission Deadline: February 5, 2010

Tentative Title: As They Move On: Outcomes and Results of Deferred Associate Placement at Public Interest Organizations

Authors: Alisa Morales (AROSALE3@depaul.edu) and Susan DeCostanza (sdecostanza@kentlaw.edu)

Summary: Update on Deferred Associates at public interest organizations – how the deferred associates worked out at public interest agencies (for those associates that end up working); effects on the public interest host organizations; effects on the deferred associates; effects traditional public interest law graduates; issues that have arisen & how the law firms and other involved parties have responded; best practices, etc.

Column Articles:

November 2009 Issue:

Submission Deadline: October 5, 2009

Tentative Title: "Not Your Stepping Stone": Networking Without Treating People as a Means to an End

Author: Anna Marshall (amarshall@law.gwu.edu)

Summary: One of students' main objections to networking is the feeling that they're "using" the other person. This article will address effective networking and counseling strategies to help students better understand the true nature and value of professional networking.

December 2009 Issue:

Submission Deadline: November 5, 2009

Tentative Title: Helping Your Public Interest Students Using Work Study Money

Author: Carol Thompson (carol.thompson@valpo.edu; 219-465-7802)

Summary: Increasing numbers of employers (many government and public interest) are seeking to utilize federal work study programs when hiring law clerks and legal interns. This article will explore the different ways schools are leveraging work study moneys to assist their students.

January 2010 Issue:

Submission Deadline: December 5, 2009

Tentative Title: Tips and Pointers on Drafting a Public Interest Resume

Author: Jessica Mehl (jessica.mehl@utoledo.edu; 419-530-4996) and Anneliese Gryta (419-930-2380)

Summary: This brief article will highlight the key differences between a public interest and a private sector resume, stressing the key things that public interest employers look for and the importance for students to keep different versions of their resume for different employers.

April 2010 Issue:

Submission Deadline: March 5, 2010

Tentative Title: The Winding Road to the Public Sector

Author: Kim Baxter (kbaxter2@gmu.edu) and Nicole Vikan (nav6@law.georgetown.edu)

Summary: The path from law school to public interest work has always been a windy road for many law school grads, but under current economic conditions, grads (and career services professionals) need to be more and more creative in getting to the public service jobs that they want even though it may take longer and the path may lead to unexpected places (alternative jobs/volunteer positions/diverse locations) before ending up at the final destination.

May 2010 Issue:

Submission Deadline: April 5, 2010

Tentative Title: Breaking Into Public Policy and Administration

Author: Paula Nailon (nailon@law.arizona.edu; 520-626-6107)

Summary: This article will explore the variety of opportunities available to law graduates in public policy and administration, including tips for how students can best position themselves to secure employment in this sector.

We also have a team updating two NALP pamphlets: Public Service Careers: Explore Your Options; and Public Sector/Public Interest Internships: Career Development Opportunities for All Law Students. We hope to have these completed by the end of the summer.

Public Service Mini-Conference Planning

Work Group Members: Steve Grumm (NALP), Jarrod Shirk (American—Chair), Lauren Dubin (Georgetown), Nicole Vikan (Georgetown)

Work Group members had a meeting on May 29, 2009.

The Mini-Conference is an annual event that takes place the prior to the Equal Justice Works Conference and Career Fair. This year's Mini-Conference is scheduled for Thursday, October 22 and Friday, October 23, 2009. The tentative schedule is:

Thursday, 10/22 (at Georgetown Law Center, afternoon/evening)

4:00-5:30pm – Public Interest Advising 101

5:30-7:00pm – Federal Employer Networking Reception

Friday, 10/23 (at Arnold & Porter, full day)

Morning – PS Section Meeting/Town Hall and PSLN Update

Lunch – Pro Bono Publico Award Ceremony

Afternoon –

1:30-3:00pm – Breakouts

- The Intersection of Web 2.0, Social Networking, and Career Counseling
- Law School Pro Bono as a Practical Skills Builder
- Federal Legal Employment – What's Really Going on Behind the Federal Curtain, and How are Lawyers Getting There (with Sue Manch of Shannon and Manch)

3:15-4:45pm – Plenary: Maximizing Public Interest Resources in Changing Legal Education and Employment Environments

Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions.

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