

Memorandum

To: Michelle Jackson, NALP Board Liaison, Public Service Section

Cc: Fred Thrasher, NALP Deputy Director; Christina Jackson, NALP Director of Public Service Initiatives and Fellowships

From: Katie Dilks, NALP Chair, Public Service Section (2016-2017)

Re: NALP Public Service Section Fourth Quarter Board Report

Date: March 30, 2017

This report contains updates on the activities of the NALP Public Service Section and its Work Groups for the fourth quarter. The 2016-2017 Public Service Section Work Groups and Vice-Chairs are:

- LRAP/CCRAA Work Group: Amanda Furst, Public Interest Director, University of Minnesota Law School
- Mini-Conference Planning Work Group: Rochelle McCain, Director of Public Interest and Government Relations, University of Pittsburgh School of Law
- NALP Conference RFP Work Group: Samantha Zappia Kasmarek, Associate Director for Career and Professional Development, Syracuse University College of Law and Swati Parikh, Director of Public Service Careers, New York Law School
- Pro Bono Work Group: Melissa Berry, Assistant Dean for Student & Career Services, University of Washington School of Law and Diane Fears, Director of Career Services, Wayne State University Law School
- PSJD Resources Website Work Group: Michael Bergmann, Executive Director, Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI) and Emily Kite, Associate Director Career Services, University of Wisconsin Law School
- Publications Work Group: Sarah Bookbinder, Associate Director for Public Interest Advising, Suffolk University Law School

The fourth Public Service Section Quarterly Call was held on March 14 at 3:00pm EDT, and was attended by approximately 16 people.

According to NALP Connect, the Public Service Section membership is currently at 296, an increase of 10 in the last two months. Section members use NALP Connect to share job openings, information about upcoming conferences and updates on resources. Each week, the Section receives a notification of the "PSJD Public Interest News Digest" posted every Friday by Christina Jackson, which has invaluable updates on hiring trends and other news. The NALP Connect platform continues to be used robustly, and the Section is engaged and supportive on it. Christina Jackson has continued to provide ongoing updates regarding the federal hiring freeze, as well as information on the ABA lawsuit against the US Department of Education over Public Service Loan Forgiveness employer classifications. We have also had a couple suggestions for discussion at the Section Meeting in San Francisco, including counseling international students, and the role of law students in rapid response pro bono efforts.

WORK GROUP UPDATES

NALP Conference RFP Work Group

Vice-chairs: Samantha Zappia Kasmarek, Associate Director for Career and Professional Development, Syracuse University College of Law and Swati Parikh, Director of Public Service Careers, New York Law School

Sam, Christina, and Katie all provided some information about the upcoming AEC in San Francisco on the most recent Section call, highlighting the 9 public service programs scheduled, the section meeting, the Public Service luncheon, and other opportunities to both engage with each other and explore the city. The Section's programming this year includes:

- Advising Public Service Grads from Pre-bar Passage to Life Transitions
- Answering Difficult Questions In Public Interest Interviews
- Counselor, Activist, Advocate – What is the Role of Career Services Offices During Campus Protests?
- Law, Life & the Pursuit of Happiness: Prescriptions for Student and Lawyer Well-Being
- Mission Not Impossible: Navigating Federal Government Legal Hiring from Application to Clearance
- Through the Side Door: Entry into Government Service through Alternative Avenues
- The Art of Writing Successful Public Interest Fellowship Applications
- Mining for Gold: How to Find Hidden Clerkship Opportunities in California (co-submitted with Clerkships)
- Promoting Careers in Prosecution to People of Color: A Discussion of the How's, Why's, and Implications of Diversity & Inclusion in Prosecutors' Offices (co-submitted with Diversity and Inclusion)

Sam and Swati also announced the RFP process for 2018 AEC of May 19.

Publications Work Group

Vice-chairs: Sarah Bookbinder, Associate Director for Public Interest Advising, Suffolk University Law School

There were no substantial changes to report this quarter from the Publications Work Group – the Bulletin author slate is full through the end of the year, and some members have been contributing to the PSJD Blog.

Samantha Kasmarek, Miriam Ingber	Public Interest Jobs in the Private Sector: Part I	September
Laura Torchio, Katie Shelton	The Public Interest Auction: Is it still an effective fundraising tool?	October
Jaya Saxena, Rochelle McCain, Katie Dilks	Continuing the Conversation on Diversity in Public Interest Law	November
Carolyn Goodwin, Laren Spierer	Lessons from NY pro bono requirement as CA prepares to implement the same	December
Teresa Schmiedeler	Professionalism & Civility in Legal	January

and Dina Billian	Profession and what public sector and private sector might learn from each other in addressing importance of professionalism and civility in work cultures	
Elyse Diamond Moskowitz	Creative ways to collaborate with faculty and student groups to build a successful public interest program/community	February
Sam Kasmarek and Miriam Ingber	Public Interest Jobs in the Private Sector: Part II	March
Katie Dilks	Student Roles in Rapid Response Pro Bono Efforts	April
Sarah Bookbinder	Trends in Americorps programs for 2017 grads	May
Oscar Teran	Trends in Pro Bono Programs – Best Practices	June
Lindsey McCaslin	TBD	July
Rochelle McCain	TBD	August

LRAP Work Group

Vice-chair Amanda Furst, Public Interest Director, University of Minnesota Law School

The LRAP Work Group held their fourth conference call on March 28 and continues to make great strides on the goals established over the summer. They are holding a “How to build an LRAP Program” webinar on April 12 at 3pm EDT. They are also actively monitoring, with Equal Justice Works’ assistance, potential challenges to Public Service Loan Forgiveness, both through potential legislative changes and the ABA’s lawsuit against the Department of Education regarding the treatment of non-profits that lack 501c3 status but provide public interest law services for PSLF eligibility. There are potential grassroots advocacy efforts around PSLF that will be disseminated through the group as they become relevant this spring and summer. The group has also worked to update the Student Debt resources on PSJD to ensure that all helpful resources are conveniently listed together. Additionally, Work Group member Alisa Rosales will represent the Section in the newly created NALP-wide regulatory monitoring task force.

Pro Bono Work Group

Vice-chairs: Melissa Berry, Director, Graduate Program and Alumni Coaching, University of Washington School of Law and Diane Fears, Director of Career Services, Wayne State University Law School

The Pro Bono Work Group held its third quarterly call on February 6, 2017, and fourth quarterly call on March 22, 2017. Other than the third call, which had to be rescheduled due to snow days, ten to twelve members have been consistently participating on the calls this year. On the calls, co-chairs Diane Fears and Melissa Berry shared with the Work Group that the vision for the group to provide a space to share ideas and resources to advance pro bono efforts has been aided by the AALS Pro Bono Collaboration Group, which member Carolyn Goodwin suggested to the Work Group on the second quarterly call. The Co-chairs joined the Collaboration Group and have been participating in its calls. They shared with the Work Group the AALS Collaboration Group’s efforts to make the resources on PSJD more robust and to

create pro bono resource guides in six key areas: Tracking hours; supervising volunteers; training volunteers; knowledge management – preserving institutional memory; cultural competency; and cultivating volunteers. Members have agreed to volunteer to help create these resources, and Christina Jackson is serving as the point person. Members have also been active in writing Bulletin articles: Carolyn Goodwin and Laren Spierer for writing the Bulletin article, “Quick Tips for Enhancing Your Law School Pro Bono Program,” that was published in December 2016 and Oscar Teran for writing the upcoming article about law school pro bono program best practices for the June Bulletin. Members shared information about spring break pro bono trips and immigration as a hot topic to which rapid response by schools and pro bono attorneys has been necessary. Laura Burstein shared SMU’s “Flash Class” and other members shared activities and ideas from their schools.

During the calls, the Co-Chairs discussed upcoming conferences, including the 2017 NALP AEC programs related to this group’s work and the ABA Equal Justice Conference in Pittsburgh in May, and the pre-conference for law school pro bono staff. The Co-chairs announced the May 19 deadline for RFPs the 2018 NALP Annual Conference and encouraged members to consider topics. One topic identified was pro bono professionalism trainings and work members were doing in this area at their schools, including online modules. It was suggested to develop a partnership with the Law Student Professional Development Section for that topic. Co-chairs encouraged members to consider developing that topic and identifying others. A proposed timeline was shared to submit ideas by April 28 and have drafts ready by May 12. On the final call, the Co-chairs and members mutually thanked each other for their service and for the productive year.

PSJD Resources Work Group

Vice-chairs: Michael Bergmann, Executive Director, Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI) and Emily Kite, Associate Director Career Services, University of Wisconsin Law School

The PSJD Resources Work Group continues to build on their great work developing new resources this year by soliciting and developing resources on self-assessment and networking. They have been conducting outreach for this program through NALPConnect, the Section Call, and will share the request at the Section Meeting in San Francisco next month. The Group plans to spend the summer finalizing these resources and setting new goals for next year.

Mini-Conference Planning Work Group

Vice-chair Rochelle McCain, Director of Public Interest and Government Relations, University of Pittsburgh School of Law

The Public Service Mini-Conference was held on Thursday, October 27th, the day before the Equal Justice Works Conference and Career Fair, in Washington, DC and was a rousing success. On the most recent Section call, Rochelle McCain solicited new volunteers to join the Work Group for the 2017 Mini-Conference, and the group has already been receiving suggestions for potential programs and topics for conversation.