

MEMORANDUM

To: Melanie Rowen, NALP Board Liaison, Public Service Section

From: Jana Matthews and Michelle Takagishi-Almeida, Public Service Section Co-Chairs

cc: Claire Nash (cnash@nalp.org)

Date: February 2, 2023

Re: Public Service Section – Third Quarter Report

I. 2022-23 Public Service Section Leadership

Section Chairs	Jana Matthews Seattle University School of Law jmatthews1@seattleu.edu Michelle Takagishi-Almeida Southwestern Law School mtalmeida@swlaw.edu
Annual Education Conference + Webinar Planning	Vacant
Environmental Scanning	Vacant
PSJD Resource Development Work Group	Jocelyn Brennan Witzel Saint Louis University School of Law jocelyn.witzel@slu.edu
LRAP Initiatives/CCRAA Developments	Amanda Prasuhn Berkeley Law aprasuhn@law.berkeley.edu Jennifer Geller Oregon Law jgeller@uoregon.edu
Pro Bono Work Group	Elizabeth Boe DePaul College of Law eboe@depaul.edu

NALP/PSJD Public Service Mini-Conference Planning	Freda Coleman-Jackson Washington & Lee University School of Law fc Coleman-jackson@wlu.edu
Publications	Teresa Schmiedeler University of Maryland Carey School of Law tschmiedeler@law.umaryland.edu
Member Relations	Vacant
Knowledge Management and Resource Implementation	Chelsea-Leigh Flucus University of California, Irvine cflucus@law.uci.edu
Well-Being Champion	Brooke Meckler Equal Justice Works bmeckler@equaljusticeworks.org
Communications, Social Media & Marketing	Vacant

II. THIRD QUARTER SECTION MEETING

The third quarterly meeting for the 2022-23 year took place on January 25, 2023 under the leadership of Co-Chairs, Jana Matthews and Michelle Takagishi-Almeida. Twenty-five members were in attendance, including Public Service Section (PSS) Board Liaison Melanie Rowen.

The meeting began with an employer spotlight on the Shriver Center on Poverty Law followed by reports and updates from: (i) Mini-Conference Planning Workgroup Vice-Chair Freda Coleman-Jackson, Washington & Lee University School of Law; (ii) PSS Well-Being Champion Brooke Meckler, Equal Justice Works; (iii) Pro Bono Workgroup Vice-Chair Elizabeth Boe, DePaul University College of Law; and (iv) PSS Co-Chairs Jana Matthews and Michelle Takagishi-Almeida.

Section meeting closed with a call for volunteers for the 2023-2024 year with priority need for an Annual Education Conference Vice Chair(s) given the May 12, 2023 proposal deadline for the 2024 Annual Education Conference.

III. PSS WORKGROUP UPDATES

a. Annual Education Conference + Webinar Planning

Vice-Chair position remains vacant at time of board report submission on February 2, 2023.

Recruitment efforts for volunteer(s) will increase over the next quarter in preparation for leadership transitions and the May 12, 2023 deadline for proposals for the 2024 Annual Education Conference.

b. Environmental Scanning

On January 3, 2023, PSS Co-Chairs received notice that Vice-Chair Sarah Jasper has left employment at Equal Justice Works.

No updates on proposed programming and activities from the Environmental Scanning Workgroup to report at time of board report submission on February 2, 2023.

c. PSJD Resource Development Work Group

PSJD Resource Development Work Group updates were not received by February 2, 2023 board report deadline.

Vice-Chair Jocelyn Witzel will provide workgroup updates and developments on proposed programming and activities at a later date.

d. LRAP Initiatives/CCRAA Developments

Vice-Chairs Amanda Prasuhn and Jennifer Geller have continued to keep abreast of the latest student loan updates. Both attended the AccessLex Institute conference in November 2022, where they attended sessions on the current loan repayment landscape, Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF), and financial planning for public interest students. With student debt relief held up in SCOTUS, the COVID forbearance continuing indefinitely, and proposed Department of Education regulations improving Income Driven Repayment (IDR) plans and PSLF, Jennifer and Amanda continue to follow the latest developments and will keep NALP members informed of big news.

e. Pro Bono Work Group

Vice-Chair Elizabeth Boe met with the American Bar Association to explore further collaboration, especially focusing on potential creation of a pro bono opportunities database. The Work Group will meet before the end of the calendar year to continue environmental scanning efforts on pro bono opportunities for law students and attorneys, with remote opportunities spotlighted and to set forth a finalized plan for the rest of the 2022-2023 year.

Members interested in volunteering with or sharing input regarding the Pro Bono Workgroup project are encouraged to contact Vice Chair Elizabeth Boe directly at eboe@depaul.edu.

f. NALP/PSJD Public Service Mini-Conference Planning

Throughout November 2022, Work Group Vice Chair Freda Coleman-Jackson held weekly meetings with Section Co-Chairs Michelle Takagishi-Almeida and Jana Matthews, along with Wellness Champion Brook Meckler to finalize logistics for the virtual PSJD Public Service Mini-Conference.

The Work Group is very appreciative for the support of NALP staff members Jay Richards, Senior Director of Operations, and Mary Beal, Senior Director of Member Professional Development, provided during Director of Public Service Initiatives Sam Halpert's leave.

As a result of this team effort, a very successful NALP/PSJD Public Service Mini-Conference was held virtually on December 6-7, 2022 with over 70 PSS members in attendance. The first day opened with remarks from NALP Executive Director Nikia Gray and the second day began with remarks from NALP President Karl Riehl.

Conference programming included four separate sessions that were moderated and delivered by members of the Public Service Section and other NALP sections. The rich knowledge and expertise of the NALP membership was showcased on topics ranging from: designing student funding programs for public interest internships to a discussion of public interest attorney salaries, followed by a discussion on how to empower students in the workplace and a panel on professional development paths led by senior-level leaders, including NALP Board of Director member and PSS Section liaison Melanie Rowen.

The conference also included wellness exercises led by PSS Section Wellness Champion Brooke Meckler which culminated in an epic playlist curated by PSS Section Co-Chair Jana Matthews that was shared with section members during the most recent section meeting. Resources so generously provided by conference speakers were shared with attendees via an email from Meaghan Hagner, Director of Member Services on December 9, 2022. Thanks to the support of Sam Halpert and PSJD Fellow Jennifer Frederick, these resources are now available on the PSJD website.

The Work Group thanks NALP leadership and members for their continued support that made the 2022 PSJD Mini-Conference a success and welcomes member feedback or proposals on programs for the 2023-2024 year.

g. Publications

With thanks to Vice-Chair Teresa Schmiedeler and each of the authors who have submitted articles on behalf of the section, PSS has been well-represented in NALP's publications this year.

Vice Chair Teresa Schmiedeler has confirmed volunteers for upcoming NALP Bulletin articles with publication slated for:

- January 2023: Rachel Lawrence, Catholic Columbus School of Law
- February 2023: Chelsea-Leigh Flucus, UC Irvine School of Law
- March 2023: Sam Halpert, NALP Director of Public Service Initiatives
- April 2023: Jamie Reisman, Penn Carey Law
- May 2023: PSJD Fellow Jennifer Frederick
- June 2023: Kate Anderson, University of Baltimore School of Law

Article topics and submissions into the 2023-2024 year are still being accepted and are welcomed. Members interested in submitting an article on behalf of the section are encouraged to contact Vice Chair Teresa Schmiedeler directly at tschmiedeler@law.umaryland.edu.

h. Well-Being Champion

Well-Being Champion Brooke Meckler attended a January 27, 2023 meeting of Well-Being Champions from all NALP sections. The meet focused on discussion on how to solicit responses from each section as well as identifying topics and activities that are an area of member need and what resources or tools can be developed or shared across the sections to address them.

Questions raised for meeting discussion included, but, were not limited to:

- What well-being topics will your Section focus on in 2023?
- Are your Section members anticipating an increase, decrease or maintaining the status quo on mental health and well-being resources in 2023?
- What are your Section members planning for 2023 to improve the success of mental health and well-being initiatives/support/resources in their organizations?
- As we continue to "resurface," are your Section members seeing any residual impact on mental health and well-being in their organizations that need addressed?
- What metrics do your Section members use to measure mental health and well-being?
- Any additional well-being resources needed or that would be helpful?

Well-Being Champion Brooke Meckler shared these updates at the PSS third quarter meeting on January 25, 2023 and invited members to contact her directly to give input ahead of the January 27 meet.

i. Member Relations

Vice-Chair position remains vacant. No updates at time of board report submission on February 2, 2023.

Recruitment efforts for volunteer(s) will increase over the next quarter in preparation for leadership transitions into the 2023-2024 year.

j. Knowledge Management and Resource Implementation

Following the PSS second quarter meeting on October 12, 2022, section member Chelsea-Leigh Flucus contacted NALP Knowledge Management Advisory Group (KM) Co-Chairs Elisabeth A. Beal, William & Mary Law School and Andrew Hale, Venable LLP to learn more about the role and expectations of the Knowledge Management and Resource Implementation Vice-Chair position.

KM Co-Chair Elisabeth A. Beal and Chelsea-Leigh Flucus met on November 9 2022 to review Working Group goals and plans for the PSS moving forward. On November 18 2022, PSS Co-Chairs received notice that Chelsea-Leigh Flucus had agreed to serve as the PSS Knowledge Management Vice Chair for the remaining 2022-23 year and into the next.

An immediate need identified by Vice Chair Chelsea-Leigh Flucus are updates to the Public Interest Section of the NALP Career Advising binder that is distributed to new NALP members and law school counselors.

Members interested in volunteering with or sharing input regarding this KM Workgroup project are encouraged to contact Vice Chair Chelsea-Leigh Flucus directly at cflucus@law.uci.edu.

IV. 2022-23 SECTION MEETINGS

Remaining section meetings will be alternatively hosted by co-chairs Michelle Takagishi-Almeida and Jana Matthews with all meetings scheduled at 3pm EST/ 2pm CST/ 12pm PST on the following dates:

- March 29, 2023: Meeting ID: 941 4005 3483 | Passcode: 412268