

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Mike Ende, NALP Board Liaison, Public Service Section  
**Cc:** Fred Thrasher, NALP Deputy Director; Samuel Halpert, NALP Director of Public Service Initiatives  
**From:** Sharon Buckingham (Villanova) and Claire Cusella (Equal Justice Works), NALP Co-Chairs, Public Service Section (2021-22)  
**Date:** June 23, 2021  
**Re:** Public Service Section – First Quarterly Report

This report contains updates on the activities of the NALP Public Service Section and its Work Groups for the first quarter. The 2021-2022 Public Service Section Work Groups and Vice-Chairs are:

LRAP/CCRAA Work Group:

- Jennifer Geller**, University of Oregon School of Law
- Aoife Delargy Lowe**, Equal Justice Works

Member Relations Work Group:

- Diane Fears**, Wayne State Law School
- Susan Curry**, University of Chicago Law School

Mini-Conference Planning Work Group:

- Glory McLaughlin**, University of Alabama School of Law
- Melanie Rowen**, Berkeley Law

NALP Annual Education Conference and Webinar Planning Work Group:

- Katie Behan**, University of Windsor Faculty of Law
- Jana Matthews**, IU McKinney School of Law

Pro Bono Work Group:

- Laura Burstein**, SMU Dedman School of Law
- Lauren Worsek**, DePaul University College of Law

PSJD Resources Development Work Group:

- Brent Page**, Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI)
- Jocelyn Witzel**, Saint Louis University School of Law

Publications Work Group:

- Brooke Meckler**, Equal Justice Works
- Michelle Takagishi-Almeida**, Southwestern Law School

On May 11<sup>th</sup>, the Public Service Section held its kick-off call via Zoom. Claire Cusella and Sharon Buckingham introduced themselves as the Section's new co-Chairs. Mike Ende and Sam Halpert also introduced themselves, and our new President, Traci Mundy Jenkins, welcomed everyone to the Section and thanked Susan Curry and Lilli Evans for their leadership in 2020-2021. The work group vice chairs introduced themselves and made their pitch for volunteers. Sam Halpert announced the winners of the Pro Bono Publico award, and informed members of a new PSJD feature in Research and Reports that enables school administrators to see graphs with their student and alumni usage. We then split into two breakout rooms, where

participants introduced themselves and spoke more about their interests. The Section also set its quarterly meeting dates:

- Wednesday, June 9 at 2pm EST/ 1pm CST/ 11am PST
- Wednesday, October 6 at 2pm EST/ 1pm CST/ 11am PST
- Wednesday, January 26 at 2pm EST/ 1pm CST/ 11am PST
- Wednesday, March 2 at 2pm EST/ 1pm CST/ 11am PST

On June 9<sup>th</sup> the Section held its first quarterly call. We are continuing the employer spotlight, which Lilli Evans and Susan Curry began last year in their roles as Co-Chairs of the Section. Brooke Meckler spoke to the group about Equal Justice Works and the opportunities it provides to students and CSO offices. She spoke about the different services EJW provides, including educational debt expertise and advocacy; types of post-graduate fellowships; the EJW Conference and pre-event webinars; and the law school community newsletter.

The work group vice chairs gave their reports. We have summarized those reports below, along with reports re: work group meetings that occurred after the June 9 Section meeting:

**AEC/Webinar Planning:** Katie introduced herself as the new vice chair, and Sharon invited section members to consider joining Katie as co-vice chair and to join the brainstorming session on June 10. (Jana Matthews later agreed to take that role.) We also discussed the year-round potential for developing webinars.

On June 10, Katie held a brainstorming session and the group generated more than ten topics to potentially explore. Those topics were posted to NALPConnect, and Katie and Jana will be working to solicit volunteers that might be interested in taking them to the proposal stage. The submission deadline is in mid-August so this group will likely hold a second call in early July to move these proposals along.

**Environmental Scanning:** The work group reported on their May 24 meeting and, specifically, their plan to establish small group regional meetups to discuss shared experiences, including continuing adjustment to post-Covid hiring developments. They have identified three major areas for scanning: (1) the level of student participation in public service job fairs held during the 2020-2021 academic year, and the impact, if any, of delayed OCI and law firm recruiting on public service outcomes; (2) public service sector job outcomes, including summer internships and post-graduate positions; and (3) the future of remote work, in both an internship and post-graduate setting, and whether a remote or hybrid model here to stay.

**LRAP Initiatives:** Aoife reported that the group's main goals are to keep the Section up to date on LRAP/debt issues, to keep resources up to date, and to present two webinars for the Section.

**Member Relations:** The work group met on June 1 and settled on a few initiatives to pursue during the 2021-2022 NALP year. They include: (1) continuing to email and/or call new members on a quarterly basis; (2) instituting periodic orientations for new members; (3) introducing a quarterly member spotlight announcement featuring new members and experienced members; (4) increasing member engagement via NALPConnect; (5) developing a comprehensive best practices document or archive; and (5) creating and implementing a mentoring program pairing newer and experienced members of the Section.

**Mini-Conference Planning:** The work group met on June 22 to discuss ideas and timing for the mini-conference. In response to input from new members during the Quarterly Meeting that the

Public Interest Counseling 101 program take place early in the academic year, the program will be held on Wednesday, August 25, from 3-4:30 pm ET. Swati Parikh will start putting together the program. There will be a NALP Public Service networking event during EJW in October. And with the idea that the mini-conference will return to October in 2022, when EJW and the mini-conference return to a live format, this year's mini-conference will take place on Monday, December 13 and Tuesday, December 14, tentatively scheduled for 12:30-4 pm ET on each day. The work group is interested in keynotes addressing the potential theme of leveraging technology, with two opening speakers, one on each day. Melanie Rowen will reach out to our Harvard and Howard colleagues about their Justice Initiative collaboration, and Sam will reach out to Miguel Willis about Access to Justice Tech Fellows. Melanie will also reach out to potential speakers for a panel on family defense. The work group will aim to have ideas for the mini-conference ready to go in mid- to late-September, and likely will meet again briefly in July to finalize plans for the August Public Interest Counseling 101 program.

**Pro Bono:** The work group met on June 8 and discussed a number of continuing and new projects: a plug-and-play curriculum; work with Sam to post remote opportunities on PSJD; sending a survey to NALP membership (not just the Section members) about their pro bono programming, in coordination with ABA, which already sends a (somewhat burdensome) survey to law schools; collaborating with the Membership work group on developing pro bono-specific mentoring opportunities; connecting law students nationwide; and developing an RFP for the spring AEC to appeal to a broad spectrum of NALP – how to develop a pro bono program when pro bono/public interest is not your only responsibility.

**PSJD Resources:** Jocelyn reported on the work group's goals – to organize and better streamline resources and to develop a strategy for keeping resources up to date, working with Sam to make resources more accessible. They may be collaborating with the Pro Bono Work Group on the “plug-and-play” curriculum.

**Publications:** Brooke and Michelle have commitments for the following upcoming Bulletin articles to run: July/August - Pro Bono Engagement (Lauren Worsek); September – Environmental Scanning Summary (Moriah Allen/Sharon Buckingham); October – Silver Linings (Glory McLaughlin); January – How to Best Provide PS Resources to Students When You Don't Have a Dedicated Staffer (Katherine Mikkelson). They are continuing to solicit authors for articles for November and December 2021 and Spring 2022. Michelle put together a list of potential article topics, which she posted on NALPConnect following the meeting, to solicit Section members who may be interested in writing, but who don't necessarily have their own article idea.