

MEMORANDUM

TO: Cybele Smith, NALP Board Liaison, Public Service Section

CC: Fred Thrasher, NALP Deputy Director
Meghan Grenda, NALP Member Services Coordinator

FROM: Samantha Z. Kasmarek, NALP Chair, Public Service Section

RE: **NALP Public Service Section 3rd Quarter Board Report**

DATE: January 15, 2014

Please find below a report of the Public Service Section's activities during the third quarter of the 2013-2014 NALP year.

SUMMARY

The Public Service Section has continued to be very active this quarter. The Section's third quarterly conference call was on January 7, 2014. Amongst other great updates, a summary of the NALP/PSJD Mini-Conference was shared and the LRAP Group discussed its draft of a new resource. For those who could not make the call, the meeting minutes were posted to NALPconnect as a resource and an announcement was made to that effect. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 4, 2014 at 2 pm Eastern.

The Public Service Section also continued to add members on its NALP Connect page during this quarter. Approximately 11 NALP members joined the section and were sent the "Welcome" e-mail with information about our work groups and contact information for both myself and Christina Jackson.

WORK GROUP UPDATES

Annual Education Conference Program Proposals (Seattle, 2014)
Vice Chair: Andrew Chapin, Fordham Law School

All programs are on track for the Conference in April.

Publications
Vice Chair: Katie Dilks, Georgetown

The monthly articles continue to be well received. Almost all work groups will have an article for spring publication in the *Bulletin*.

The group has worked to involve employers and so far, the Illinois Attorney General's Office has authored 2 guest PSJD blog posts. An additional blog post is expected this quarter from another employer.

NALP/PSJD Mini-Conference Planning
Vice Chair: Nicole Vikan (Georgetown)

The NALP/PSJD Mini-Conference took place at Hogan Lovells in Washington, DC on Thursday, October 24th. (Public Interest Advising 101 was held the evening beforehand, at Georgetown Law Center, and was followed by a round robin dinner.)

The Section considered the conference a big success. 27 people attended the Public Interest Advising held at Georgetown and 103 people attended the conference. For the first time, we had some employers attend both Public Interest Advising 101 and the Mini-Conference.

Some highlights include:

- **Plenary:** Moving the Plenary to the morning was well-received by participants. Our speaker, Lisa Mottet, the Deputy Executive Director of the National Center for Transgender Equality, discussed transgender rights and best practices for working with trans students. Her talk was extremely informative and very popular with attendees.
- **Lunch:** The Pro Bono Publico Award is now presented at the recipient's law school, so only an announcement about the winner took place at lunch. Attendees enjoyed having time to catch up with old friends and meet new colleagues.
- **Breakouts:** As in past years, there were three break-out sessions for attendees to choose from and all were well-received:
 - Two-Year Fellowship Programs: JD Fellowships Beyond the Big "2"
 - Behavioral Interviewing: How to Prepare Students and Evaluate Their Responses
 - Best Practices for Law Student Pro Bono: The CLEA Chapter & More
- **Networking Reception:** The Mini-Conference ended with an employer networking reception, which was attended by representatives from government agencies and, for the first-time, national non-profits. The employer turnout was excellent, and conference planners got great feedback.

A debriefing call, with tentative planning for the Mini-Conference 2014, took place on Monday, January 13.

Diversity in Public Service Employment Sector
Vice Chair: Matt Gewolb, Columbia Law School

The group has established a good working relationship with the corresponding work group within the Diversity and Inclusion Section. Recently, they have had a couple of fruitful calls. Together, they plan to work with NALP staff members to get a copies of any public service-related employer surveys that are sent out. The plan is to look at these documents and consider what is currently asked of employers. The groups are considering whether/if to add questions to public service employer surveys and, perhaps most importantly, how to encourage these employers to participate and pay attention to the resulting data. The group is actively seeking at least one more group member.

Pro Bono Work Group

Co-Vice Chairs: Kim Bart, Duke Law, Danielle Sorcken, Brooklyn Law

The work group has drafted a short survey to law school pro bono programs which focus on specific areas (i.e., hot areas like transactional or veterans' issues). The results will be the foundation for Best Practices/Nuts & Bolts to help those starting new programs or expanding. The survey has been drafted and the group hopes to have it finalized and sent out shortly.

Loan Repayment Assistance Programs (LRAP)

Vice Chair: Kirsten Hill, UC Davis School of Law

The work group has a draft of a Best Practices Guide. They are soliciting feedback from group members and hope to upload the Guide to NALPconnect and otherwise launch the resource prior to the Annual Conference.

A LRAP Work Group member will also write an article about the new resource for the April NALP *Bulletin*.

Public Service Course for Mid-Career Professionals –201 Course

Vice Chair: Andrew Chapin (Annual Education Conference Program Proposal Vice-Chair)

This program is also on target for the Conference in April.

PROPOSED WORK GROUP

PSJD Resources Work Group

After the October meeting of the PSJD Advisory Work Group, it was suggested that the website add a section on Capitol Hill resources. Having discussed this idea with

Christina Jackson, we believe that a Public Service Section work group might be the best way to gather information and create this resource.

The Public Service Section previously had a State and Local Government Work Group that was initiated to create a resource on PSJD (then known as PSLawNet). My thought is to not just create a specific group but a more all-encompassing group that, once the Capitol Hill resources has been generated, the group can either work on updating other PSJD content or work on future ideas for resources. I propose that the PSJD Resources Work Group either be Vice-Chaired by a member of the PSJD Advisory Group or, if that is not feasible, have at least one member of the Advisory Group join the work group and serve as a liaison.

IN CLOSING

The Third Quarter coincides with the end-of-the year holiday season and the start of a new semester for those involved in public service. The group continues to be dedicated and engaged, with new ideas constantly being generated. As the NALP year-end nears, this ensures that the Public Service Section will continue to be productive in both 2014 and the NALP year to come.