

Memorandum

To: Layke Martin, NALP Board Liaison, Public Service Section

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

From: Danielle Sorken, NALP Chair, Public Service Section (2015-2016)

Re: NALP Public Service Section 2nd Quarter Board Report

Date: October 15, 2015

This report contains updates on the activities of the NALP Public Service Section and its Work Groups for the first quarter. The 2015-2016 Public Service Section Work Groups and Vice-Chairs are:

- LRAP/CCRAA Working Group: Nicole Simmons, Director of Public Service Programs, University of Texas School of Law
- Mini-Conference Planning Working Group: Katie Dilks, Assistant Director for Public Interest Programs, Georgetown University Law Center
- NALP Conference RFP Working Group: Samantha Zappia Kasmarek, Associate Director for Career and Professional Development, Syracuse University College of Law and Jaya Saxena, Assistant Director, Diversity and Inclusion at GW Law's Center for Professional Development and Career Strategy
- Pro Bono Working Group: Jen Tschirch, Pro Bono Coordinator, Catholic University Columbus School of Law and Laura Dym Cohen, Associate Clinical Professor of Law Director, Street Law Clinic & Community Outreach, Southwestern Law School
- PSJD Resources Website Working Group: Michael Bergmann, Executive Director, Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI)
- Publications Working Group: Jen Pollard, Director of Judicial Clerkships & Government Programs, University of Maryland School of Law

The Public Service Section has had an active quarter leading up to the Section's "Mini-Conference" scheduled for October 22nd in Washington, DC. The Section held its second quarterly conference call on October 8, 2015, and all of the Section's Work Groups reported great progress and plans.

The Third and Fourth Public Service Section Quarterly Calls are scheduled for January 13th at 3:00pm EST and March 23rd at 3:00pm EST.

According to NALP Connect, the Public Service Section membership has grown to 280. 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 news and hiring trends.

WORK GROUP UPDATES

NALP Conference RFP Work Group

Vice-chair Samantha Zappia Kasmarek, Associate Director for Career and Professional Development, Syracuse University College of Law and Jaya Saxena, Assistant Director, Diversity and Inclusion at GW Law's Center for Professional Development and Career Strategy

This year, the Annual Education Conference RFP Work Group helped coordinate 13 RFPs on behalf of the Public Service Section, including programs in collaboration with the Small/Solo CSO Section, Employer Outreach Section and Diversity/Inclusion Section. The Section was thrilled to learn that 6 of its proposals were accepted for the Conference, thanks to Samantha and Jaya’s hard work in connecting Section members to one another in order to coordinate efforts, distribute expertise, and promote panel diversity.

The following workshops, featuring topics of particular interest to the Public Service Section membership, will be presented at NALP’s 2016 Annual Education Conference in Boston:

- “Implementing the Essentials of Public Interest Advising” - Dena Bauman, Alisa Benedict O'Brien, and Fairuz Abdullah
- "Incubators and Beyond: Building an Entrepreneurial Access to Justice Program" - Katie Dilks, Laura Cohen, Gerald Slater, and Leonard Zandrow
- "Opening Lines of Communication - Employer and CSO Relations from the Employer's Perspective" - Lillian Evans, Lisa Bernt, and Cybele Smith
- "Perspectives on Loan Forgiveness and Student Debt" - Robert Jack, Adam S. Minsky, Esq., Isaac Bowers, and Heather Jarvis
- "Wonderful World of International Organizations" - David Glasgow, Miriam Ingber, Aican Nguyen, and Virginia Greiman
- "Utilizing your Federal Work Study or Externship Program to Conduct Employer Outreach" - Michelle Vodenik, Ruta Stropus, and Jessica Heywood

Publications Work Group

Vice-chair Jen Pollard, University of Maryland School of Law

The Publications Work Group has identified authors and topics for this year’s monthly contributions by the Public Service Section to the NALP *Bulletin*. Jen has coordinated a full slate of article contributors to the NALP *Bulletin* to draft articles on public service-related topics each month. The schedule and article topics include:

Lindsay McCaslin (William and Mary)	7 habits for highly effective public interest counseling	September
Michelle Vodenik (Kent Law)	Counseling students to be successful at public interest job fairs	October
Akua Akyea (Iowa) & Sam Kasmarek (Syracuse)	International Human Rights 101	November
Danielle Sorken (Brooklyn) & Alexis Martinez (St. Johns)	Pro Bono programs for 1Ls	December
Laura Torchio (Pace)	Counseling students re: summer funding/post-grad funding	January
Christine Guard (Mercer)	Uniform Bar Exam—information on what it is and where it is going to go	February

Jaya Saxena (GW) & Amanda Furst (UMN)	Joint with Judicial Clerkship Section—Impact of gap year clerkships on public service careers	March
Amanda Furst (UMN)	Using data/outcomes for public interest careers	April
Meredith O’Keefe (UConn)	Public service careers/lower paid attorneys being happier and conveying info to students	May
Isaac Bowers (EJW) & Robert Jack (St. Thomas)	PSLF Update	June
Claudia Melo (UMN)	Strategic planning around public service goals in a career office	July
Katie Dilks (Georgetown)	Using technology—how apps are making for better access to justice	August

Jen also has been encouraging and supporting Section members who are interested in writing to contribute to the PSJD Blog.

LRAP Work Group

Vice-chair Nicole Simmons, University of Texas School of Law

In light of the recent updates and proposed changes to federal income-driven repayment and Public Service Loan Forgiveness, the LRAP work group will again survey the NALP member schools and provide a report on the status of LRAP programs across the country. It has been about 10 years since the last LRAP survey was released by EJW, and the group hopes that the updated results will be both informative and able to be used as an advocacy tool, where applicable. Please see attached the proposed survey plan and questions.

Pro Bono Work Group

Vice-chairs Jen Tschirch, Catholic Univ. Columbus Sch. of Law and Laura Dym Cohen, Associate Clinical Professor of Law Director, Street Law Clinic & Community Outreach, Southwestern Law School

The Pro Bono work group has been a flurry of activity. On the most recent section call, they provided the section with an update on the New York (a broader definition of supervision) and California (still pending) pro bono requirements. They will update the PSJD resources to reflect these changes. The work group is also involved in collaborating with pro bono partners from other organizations including the ABA, Equal Justice Works and the AALS. They have been working on supporting Pro Bono Week, the week leading up to Halloween, and encouraging section members to check out the ABA/Pro Bono Week website for materials to download. They are also helping promote the AALS’s conference session on New York’s Pro Bono Scholars Program. Lastly, they have given the section updates on available pro bono resources. For example, there is now a 2nd edition on LexisNexis that includes a Pro Bono Best Practices section and a soon-to-be published how-to guide on Pro Bono out of New York State’s Access to Justice coalition.

PSJD Resources Work Group (new for 2015-2016)

Vice-chairs Michael Bergmann, Executive Director of PILI

The PSJD Resources Work Group has been hard at work at updating the PSJD Practice Guides. They completed their initial project for this year, developing a template for our practice area guides so that

content is as universally consistent as possible. They are currently conforming the current guides to this template and hope to have that accomplished by early next year.

The group will also work to create new guides and develop new content. One idea for new content is to interview employers and employees and have a section of informational interviews.

Mini-Conference Planning Work Group

Vice-chair Katie Dilks, Georgetown University Law Center

This year's Public Service Section "Mini-Conference" will be held on October 22, 2015 (just before the annual Equal Justice Works Conference and Career Fair). The Mini-Conference Planning Work Group has programmed a terrific conference this year, and the Section's Membership is looking forward to it. Currently, there are 101 people registered for the Mini-Conference.

The Mini-Conference Work Group has revamped this year's program format in order to provide even more value to attendees. For the first time, the Mini-conference will feature two time slots for breakout sessions, offering four substantive programs. The breakout session topics include:

- Crim Law Hiring: Who, What, Why, When
- ABA Experiential Requirements: How do they impact us?
- A to Z of Counselor Professional Development
- Background Checks and Security Clearances

In addition to the "Public Interest 101" program held annually the evening before the Mini-conference, this year's Mini-conference program features a breakout session specifically for newcomer attendees, focusing on issues and questions of concern to those who are new to the field.

The Mini-conference will feature an impressive plenary speaker who will continue a tradition of offering experience and advice that is simultaneously inspiring and practical. The plenary speaker will be Jonathan Smith, Dean at University of the District of Columbia, David A Clarke School of Law, who will talk about access to justice, how law schools can respond to the justice gap and different types of access to justice programs. The Section is excited to hear his unique perspective based on his work at nonprofits and in academia on Access to Justice.

Other section activities:

Update from NALP on Bridge to Practice Survey: Over the summer, Christina Jackson reached out to the section with a survey regarding Bridge to Practice Fellowships. Ninety-seven schools responded to the survey, and we are excited for a full on analysis of the survey and its implications in the December NALP Bulletin.