

Memorandum

To: Jennifer Henfey, NALP Board Liaison, Public Service Section
Cc: Fred Thrasher, NALP Deputy Director; Samuel Halpert, NALP Director of Public Service Initiatives
From: Rochelle R. McCain, NALP Chair, Public Service Section (2019-2020)
Re: NALP Public Service Section First Quarter Board Report
Date: October 24, 2019

This report contains updates on the activities of the NALP Public Service Section and its Work Groups for the first quarter. The 2019-2020 Public Service Section Work Groups and Vice-Chairs are:

LRAP/CCRAA Work Group:

- **Susan J. Curry**, Director of Public Interest Law and Policy, The University of Chicago Law School
- **Aoife Delargy Lowe**, Equal Justice Works

Mini-Conference Planning Work Group:

- **Claire Cusella**, Equal Justice Works
- **Kathryn Shelton**, Associate Director, Public Interest Center, Northwestern Pritzker School of Law

NALP Annual Education Conference and Webinar Planning Work Group:

- **Lillian E. Evans**, Deputy Director of Legal Recruiting and Deputy EEO Officer, New York City Law Department
- **Prof. Elyse Diamond**, Director, Public Interest Law Center and Environmental Law Programs Career Specialist & Adjunct Professor, Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University

Pro Bono Work Group:

- **Laura Burstein**, Director of Public Service and Academic Success, Faculty Supervisor, Government and Public Interest Externship Program, SMU Dedman School of Law
- **Jennifer Mencarini**, Director of Career Development, Elon University School of Law

PSJD Resources Development Work Group:

- **Mike Kwarcinski**, Assistant Director of Career Development, Michigan State University College of Law
- **Brent Page**, Program Manager, Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI)

Publications Work Group:

- **Brooke Meckler**, Equal Justice Works
- **Rachel Kronick Rothbart**, University of Southern California Gould School of Law

Initially slated for October 1st, the second Public Service Section Quarterly Call was held on October 2nd at 3pm Eastern in order to be inclusive of membership with religious observance on that date. NALP According to NALPConnect, the Public Service Section membership is currently at 294. Section members use NALPConnect 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 Sam Halpert, which has invaluable updates on hiring trends and other news. The NALPConnect platform continues to be used robustly, and the Section is engaged and supportive on it.

The schedule for the remaining Public Service Section quarterly calls are provided below:

- January 15, 2020 at 3:00pm EST
- March 10, 2020 at 3:00pm EST

The Section held its strategic planning calls on July 17th and July 31st. Both sessions provided members of the Section an additional opportunity to contribute content for the Section’s memorandum submitted on September 13th. A special thanks to Cybele Smith, Director of Public Service & Public Interest Programs, The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, who served as our Strategic Planning Vice-Chair as she played a pivotal role in aggregating the information provided by members through various sources to spearhead the Section’s effort to contribute content to NALP’s greater Strategic Plan.

WORK GROUP UPDATES

LRAP Work Group

Vice Chairs: Susan J. Curry, Director of Public Interest Law and Policy, The University of Chicago Law School and Aoife Delargy Lowe, Equal Justice Works

The Work Group held its second conference call on September 25th. This year the work group plans to continue monitoring proposed changes to Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) and repayment plans. A legislative update was shared which reaffirmed there is still in a holding pattern over debt relief, although there are signals that developments are in the works. There is expressed interest by the Work Group to proactively learn whether schools are beginning to research potential revisions to their LRAP programs, should PSLF be discontinued.

The Work Group is in the beginning stages of exploring the best method to keep the various Google Spreadsheets concerning LRAP programs up-to-date. It was proposed to collaborate with the PSJD Resource Working Group about moving the materials to PSJD utilizing a Google-Drive based editing interface so it can be more easily maintained and more widely published in the future.

After the success of the Work Group’s recent webinar, it decided on two (2) webinars for the year: one focused on the Coalition to Preserve PSLF and one on employer LRAPs. For the latter, there are continuing discussions on how to potentially collaborate with the ABA regarding employer LRAPs.

The remaining call schedule for the Work Group is as follows:

- January 13, 2020 at 3:00pm EST
- March 5, 2020 at 3:00pm EST
- June 2, 2020 at 3:00pm EST

Mini-Conference Planning Work Group

Vice Chairs: Claire Cusella, Equal Justice Works and Kathryn Shelton, Associate Director, Public Interest Center, Northwestern Pritzker School of Law

The Public Service Mini-Conference was held on Thursday, October 17th, the day before the Equal Justice Works Conference and Career Fair, in Washington, D.C. at the National Association of Home Builders. Well over 90+ people attended the Mini-Conference this year, which offered a captivating keynote speaker, Nicole Austin-Hillery, Executive Director of US Programs at Human Rights Watch, a productive working lunch program which included discussions on emerging issues and opportunities, and two breakout sessions with 4 different workshop programs listed below:

- From Summer Intern to Entry-Level Attorney: Tips for a Successful Summer Internship
- Guiding Students to Take Control of their Financial Future -- A Primer for the Law School Professional
- Hidden Gems in Public Interest: Demystifying Agencies & Finding the Perfect Fit for Students
- Supporting the Social Justice Career Goals of First Gen Students -- A Toolkit for Public Interest Career Counselors

The Mini-Conference once again offered Public Interest Advising 101, an overview of public interest counseling for members who are new to the profession. Approximately 20 -25 people attended the session graciously hosted at the offices of Sidley Austin LLP. This was followed by a “round robin” dinner, which brought together 30+ NALP members for a casual networking opportunity over dinner at two area restaurants.

Due to the leadership of Claire and Kathryn, coupled with the volunteer members, the Mini-Conference content was robust, well-developed, and relevant to the membership. The Work Group, in the coming weeks, will begin compiling feedback from this year’s Mini-Conference in order to kick off strategic planning for next year’s Mini-Conference.

NALP Annual Education Conference and Webinar Planning Work Group

Vice Chairs: Lillian E. Evans, Deputy Director of Legal Recruiting and Deputy EEO Officer, New York City Law Department and Lauren E. Seffel, Senior Law Career Counselor, Public Interest Advising and Programs, The George Washington University Law School

Twelve (12) RFPs were submitted on behalf of the Public Service Section for the 2020 Annual Conference in Montreal, Canada. Of those submitted, the below seven (7) were selected:

- Who’s the Expert Here? Hitting the Reset Button on Peer Counseling
- Judicial Clerkships: A Strategic Stop on the Public Interest Career Path
- Carpe Diem: Public Interest Advising and Recruiting in an Age of Renewed Civic Engagement
- Cultivating Transferable Skillsets in Students Through Innovative Pro Bono Opportunities
- More Than Finding The Job: Building and Fostering A Culture of Public Interest and Service In Your Law School
- Preparing Students for Pro Bono & Public Service: A Plug & Play Curriculum
- The New Normal - PI/PS Hiring Under the New NALP Principles

The Work Group has turned its focus to collaboration with the Section’s other work groups on webinars and will begin the first of its collaborations with the LRAP Work Group on its two webinars in development. In addition, members have begun connecting with the Work Group after general calls for potential webinar content during the Section’s quarterly call and the Mini-Conference.

Pro Bono Work Group

Vice Chairs: Laura Burstein, Director of Public Service and Academic Success, SMU Dedman School of Law, and Jennifer Mencarini, Director of Career Development, Elon University School of Law

The Work Group held its latest call on August 29th. The Work Group is currently conducting a survey of the Section. This survey is intended to gather information about best practices to ensure compliance with ABA Standard 303 (b)(2), particularly for the benefit of law schools that do not have a full-time/dedicated pro bono coordinator/advisor. The Work Group is still working on preparation of pro bono public interest curriculum. The project would create specific resources and curriculum to provide a building block foundation for law schools to easily adapt and incorporate. The Work Group continues to assess the needs for pro bono students, specific skillset training, cultural competencies and impacts of secondary trauma.

The Work Group continues to monitor developments with state bars considering adopting pre-admission or licensure maintenance pro bono requirements as well as opportunities to collaborate with the AALS pro bono section.

The remaining schedule for Work Group calls is as follows:

- November 14, 2019 at 3:00pm EST
- February 13, 2020 at 3:00pm EST
- May 7, 2020 at 3:00pm EST

PSJD Resources Work Group

Vice Chairs: Mike Kwarcinski, Assistant Director of Career Development, Michigan State University College of Law and Brent Page, Program Manager, Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI)

The Vice Chairs have coordinated with NALP's Sam Halpert and PSJD Fellow, Brittany Valente to begin the process of tackling the objectives outlined below:

- Restructuring the navigation of the resource section, so that links lead to relevant information, and combining pages with cumulative information.
- Adding additional content regarding regional practices and funding opportunities, detailed calendar of public service job fairs, as well as expanding JD Advantage/Emerging Career content.
- Continually reviewing Practice Guides to ensure each is up to date and developing new guides in relevant areas.
- Exploring the idea of coordinating students to record interviews with public interest practitioners and then post those interviews on PSJD, which would include insights and experiences from the field, including how to land that kind of job, tips for ongoing career development, and details of practice in a particular area of the law.
- Investigate the most appropriate and dynamic manner to include government jobs and salaries content.

The PSJD website received several updates to both its form and function on October 10th with no significant hiccups for user experience or accessibility to content. A special thanks to Sam Halpert as his due diligence regarding the website ensured the successful transition. Due to the launch of the PSJD website updates, the Work Group limited its work to those matters that did not require substantial website configurations but will turn its attention to this work in the future.

Publications Work Group

Vice Chairs: Brooke Meckler, Equal Justice Works and Rachel Kronick Rothbart, University of Southern California Gould School of Law

The Work Group submitted a nearly full slate of proposed articles for the NALP Bulletin with the exception of an article for July. The Vice Chairs have already received a couple of proposed article ideas and authors for July since the Section call and the Mini-Conference. Each month, the Vice Chairs follow up individually with authors to finalize topics, deadlines, and publication dates once the proposal has been approved. Below is the Section’s current article list:

Proposed Publication Date	Tentative Topic	Author(s) Name
September	NALP Employer Survey Results	Alexa Shabecoff
October	Student Debt Relief	Rochelle McCain and Kaycee Crisp
November	Rural Public Interest Opportunities and the Power of UBE	Alisa Rosales
December	Switching from Private Sector to Public Sector	Lauren Worsek
January	Impact of Federal Shutdowns on Attitudes towards Public Service	Elisha Garvey
February	Mini-Conference - Event Write-Up	Claire Cusella
March	Boundary Setting/Work Life Balance or Budgeting	Liz Dunn
April	Gender and Achievement Gap in Public Interest Careers	Lauren Hartley
May	Benefit of Judicial Clerkships on Public Interest Careers	Michele Hoff
June	Public Interest for First Generation Law Students	Aoife Delargy Lowe

Additionally, the Work Group is exploring ways to support Section members in writing for the PSJD Blog and other outlets, as appropriate.