

Memorandum

To: Cybele Smith, NALP Board Liaison, Public Service Section
cc: Fred Thrasher, NALP Deputy Director
Meghan Grenda, NALP Member Services Coordinator
Christina Jackson, NALP Director of Public Service Initiatives and Fellowships

From: Kim Bart, NALP Chair, Public Service Section (2014-2015)

Re: NALP Public Service Section 2nd Quarter Board Report

Date: October 16, 2014

This report contains updates on the activities of the NALP Public Service Section and its Work Groups for the second quarter. The 2014-2015 Public Service Section Work Groups and Vice-Chairs are:

- NALP Conference RFP Work Group: Vice-chair Hillary Exter, Director of Student Organizations & Publicity, Fordham University School of Law
- Publications Work Group: Vice-chair Jen Pollard, Director of Judicial Clerkships & Government Programs, University of Maryland School of Law
- LRAP Work Group: Vice-chair Nicole Simmons, Director of Public Service Programs, The University of Texas School of Law
- Pro Bono Work Group: Vice-chairs Danielle Sorken, Director of the Office of Public Service, Brooklyn Law School; and Jen Tschirch, Pro Bono Coordinator, Catholic University Columbus School of Law
- PSJD Resources Work Group: Vice-chairs Leslie Thrope, Director of the Center for Public Service Law at Cardozo School of Law; and Michael Bergmann, Executive Director of the Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI)
- Mini-Conference Planning Work Group: Vice-chair Katie Dilks, Assistant Director for Public Interest Programs, Georgetown University Law Center

The Public Service Section has had an active quarter leading up to the Section's "Mini-Conference" scheduled for October 23rd in Washington, D.C. The Section held its second quarterly conference call on October 9, 2014 and all of the Section's Work Groups reported great progress and plans. The call also provided an opportunity for Section members to ask questions of colleagues about post-grad fellowship programs and deadlines, federal loan repayment cap proposals, and other topics of general interest to the Section membership. The call had high levels of participation, and the membership appears to be active, engaged and looking forward to the "Mini-Conference" next week in D.C.

The Third and Fourth Public Service Section Quarterly Calls are scheduled for January 13th at 3:00pm EST, and March 26th at 3:00pm EST.

According to NALP Connect, the Public Service Section membership has grown to 279 members. Section members regularly use NALP Connect to share resources and announcements, including the valuable

“PSJD Public Interest News Digest” posted every Friday by Christina Jackson. Other topics shared and discussed via NALP Connect this quarter include: an inquiry about the DOJ Honors hiring process, an inquiry about federal government hiring and applicants with disabilities, an inquiry about placing a student extern with the International Court of Justice, a question about online auction platforms to support student public interest fundraisers, an update on proposed “fixes” to Public Service Loan Forgiveness, a solicitation for information in preparation for a Mini-Conference Panel Program, information about various conferences, and postings for public interest-related job openings at law schools across the country.

WORK GROUP UPDATES

NALP Conference RFP Work Group

Vice-chair Hillary Exter, Fordham University School of Law

This year, the Annual Education Conference RFP Work Group helped to coordinate 11 RFPs on behalf of the Public Service Section, including one in coordination with the Judicial Clerkships Section of NALP. The Section was thrilled to learn that 9 of its proposals were accepted for the Conference, thanks to Hillary’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 Annual Education Conference 2015 in Chicago:

- “Current Challenges in Public Interest Careers—Let’s Talk!”
 - Speakers: Andrew Chapin (Fordham), Jamila Frone (DOJ), Stuart Smith (NYC Law Dept), H. Catherine Mayorkas (UCLA)
- “Public Interest for the Long Haul: Preparing Students for Careers in Public Service”
 - Speakers: Fairuz Abdullah (Hastings), Swati Parikh (NYLS), Ruta Stropus (IL AG Office), Michelle Storms (U of W)
- “Advancing a Public Service Career Through Clerking: Strategies, Challenges and Guidance”
 - Speakers: Jennifer Pollard (UMD), Janet Siegel Brown (Northwestern) Sheri Wong (Chicago Law Dept)
- “The Future of Student Debt Relief: Building on Public Service Loan Forgiveness”
 - Speakers: Isaac Bowers (EJW), Heather Jarvis (consultant), Aline Carton-Listfeld (U of W), Tamara Devieux-Adams (GW)
- “Shattering Perceptions of Prosecutors: Exploring the Role of the Prosecutor in the Public Interest and in Communities of Color”
 - Speakers: Kiran Singh(Columbia), Audrey Moore (NY Co DA), Ruth Gudino (Cook County Attorney), TBA from National Asian Pacific American Bar Association
- “Alternative, Non-Traditional, & JD Advantage Careers in Public Service”
 - Speakers: Lezlie Griffin (U of A), Sara Rakita (NYU), Michael Bergmann (PILI), Sarah Bannister (Oregon Law)

- “Social Justice and Affordable Fee Work: Supporting New Grads in New Practices”
 - Speakers: Katie Dilks (Georgetown), Will Hornsby (ABA), Nilou Khonsari (Pangea Legal Services)
- “Pro Bono: A Piece of the ATJ Puzzle”
 - Speakers: Kelly Tautges (Chicago Bar), Margaret Benson (Chicago VOLS), Ben Weinberg (Denton), Cynthia Wilson (Northwestern)
- “Responding to Crisis and Change: New Models in Delivery of Legal Services: How pro bono, limited license practitioners and technology will shift the legal landscape”
 - Speakers: Panel: Danielle Sorken (Brooklyn), Tom Maligno (Touro), Rachel Kronick Rothbart (USC)

Publications Work Group

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

The Publications Work Group 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:

- August – Sarah Bannister (Oregon) on Grit
- September – Emily Sharples (Duke) on the Duke/Legal Aid of NC “Boot Camp” Program
- October – Kim Bart (Duke) on the President’s Budget and LRAP, Impacts, Public Service Loan Forgiveness
- November – Valerie L’Herrou (Richmond) on Early Outreach for Public Interest Law
- December – Diane Cross (Cincinnati) on Leveraging Relationships to Create Substitutes for Clinics
- January – Alexia McCaskill (Colorado) on Public Interest Advising for Post-Graduates in Limited Markets
- February – Jenia M. Bacote (Mercer) on Financial Aspects of Public Interest Jobs
- March – Jackie Cheney (Brooklyn) on Helping Students Handle the 2nd Language Requirement for Direct-Service Legal Work
- April – Elyse Moskowitz (Pace) and Claudia Melo (Minnesota) on Best Practices for Summer Clerkship Application Process (Joint Article with Judicial Clerkships Section)
- June – Dena Bauman (UDC) on The Importance of Connecting with Public Interest-Focused Bar Associations
- July – Alexa Shabecoff (Harvard) on A Discussion of Law Review articles on Higher Job Satisfaction Among Public Interest Careers

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

This group launched its work early in the summer by publishing the LRAP Guide, compiled by last year's LRAP work group, on NALP Connect (members-only version) and the NALP website (public version). The LRAP Work Group continues to monitor developments in this area and during Work Group and Section Quarterly calls the group has provided updates and analysis about "best practices" for creating and maximizing law school LRAP programs.

This year, the group is working on updating and expanding the LRAP Guide. They are focusing on the following areas: a survey of how different law schools administer their LRAP programs, guidance on structuring loan repayment programs to support graduates who do not have access to federal loans, advice for those who may want to advocate for the creation of LRAP programs in their law schools, and possibly a resource list of law school contacts, businesses and consultants who may be willing to assist schools or individual students with loan repayment questions and processes.

The LRAP Work Group also has been monitoring and reporting on proposals to modify the Federal Public Service Loan Forgiveness program, a program to which many law school LRAP programs are structurally linked. For example, President Obama's proposed budget caps public service loan forgiveness at \$57,500, which would detrimentally affect law school graduates seeking to develop careers in public interest law. The LRAP Work Group hopes to combine efforts with Equal Justice Works in order to more effectively and broadly share loan forgiveness program-related updates with the NALP membership and the law school public interest community.

Pro Bono Work Group

Vice-chairs Danielle Sorken, Brooklyn Law School; and Jen Tschirch, Catholic Univ. Columbus Sch. of Law

The Pro Bono Work Group is coordinating with an ad hoc group of law school pro bono program coordinators to develop a "Law School Pro Bono Program Basics" guide for newcomers to the field. This guide/handbook will be drafted and finalized this year, and distributed broadly through channels including NALP Connect and the AALS Pro Bono Section.

The work group is generating a series of articles about successful law school pro bono projects, programs and collaborations. Topics currently underway include: medical-legal partnerships, transactional pro bono projects, international human rights, and veteran-focused pro bono projects.

The work group coordinated with the D.C. Pro Bono Week Committee to draft a story for the PSJD blog about the partnerships developed through the process of planning D.C.'s Pro Bono Week programming, highlighting the various ways that each sector of the legal community has been involved. The work group hopes that this article will inspire others to share about the pro bono work being conducted in their own communities, especially around Pro Bono Week.

Finally, the work group continues to monitor implementation of the New York State bar pro bono requirement as well as California's consideration of a similar requirement for C.A. bar admissions.

PSJD Resources Work Group (new for 2014-2015)

Vice-chairs Leslie Thrope, Cardozo School of Law; and Michael Bergmann, Executive Director of PILI

The PSJD Resources Work Group is a new Public Service Section Work Group this year, and it has hit the ground running. Beginning in August, volunteers with this work group divided up the sections within the PSJD.org Resource Center and did a comprehensive review of all the content currently available on the PDJD Resource Center website. Work group members reviewed every page for dated content and broken links, considered new content for the various resource sections, and submitted a comprehensive report to the NALP PSJD staff. The work group will put a call out to NALP Connect to encourage members to share useful content – such as handbooks, guides, or PowerPoint programs – with the PSJD Resource Center.

The PSJD Resource Center sections will be expanding from 6 sections to 9, which will include:

- Explore Your Career Options
- Public Sector Career Paths
- Applying & Interviewing
- Public Interest Events
- Pro Bono
- Post-Graduate Fellowships
- Funding Sources
- Student Loan Repayment
- Public Interest in Canada

As the new Resource Center sections are created, the work group will help to redistribute the current content among the new sections, and recommend additional information or topics to be added. The work group also will help to develop new content and resource materials as needed.

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 23, 2014 (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 revamped the program's format this year 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 5 substantive programs featuring 17 speakers. The breakout session topics include:

- Programming in the Age of Budget Cuts: Doing More With Less
- Capitol Hill and Non-Honors Program Government Hiring
- The Art of Writing A Successful Application for Public Interest Fellowships
- Keeping the Motivational Fires Burning for Your and Your Students
- Newcomer's Hot Topics: New or New-At-Heart Topics of Interest

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.

Also new this year, a reception that traditionally was held Thursday evening after the Mini-conference has been rescheduled to Wednesday evening. This Welcome Reception will provide an opportunity for attendees to meet and catch up with one another before the official start of the Mini-conference.

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 speaker this year is Amy Odom, Director of Litigation at the National Veteran’s Legal Services Program. Ms. Odom’s address will share details of her own career path and describe her experiences of working on behalf of veterans. She will provide guidance for how students and attorneys can get involved in veteran legal services work, including pro bono and career building ideas.