

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 4th Quarter Board Report
Date: April 1, 2015

This report contains updates on the activities of the NALP Public Service Section and its Work Groups for the 4th 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 held its 4th quarterly conference call on March 26, 2015 and most of the Section's Work Groups reported on progress since the last quarterly call, and plans through the rest of the academic year. The call also provided an opportunity for Section members to ask questions of colleagues about the NALP Annual Education Conference, federal loan repayment cap proposals, and other topics of general interest to the Section membership. The call had high levels of participation, and the Section membership appears to be active, engaged and looking forward to the Annual Conference in April 2015.

There currently are no more Public Service Section Quarterly Calls scheduled for the rest of the academic year. Traditionally, the 1st Quarterly Call for the Section is scheduled for May or June.

According to NALP Connect, the Public Service Section membership has grown to 288 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 included: spring break pro bono trip opportunities; summer internship opportunities; requests for feedback and information in preparation for an Annual Conference panel programs; a question about employer practices regarding background checks; and other information of special interest to Public Service Section members.

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. A Public Service Section-sponsored Workshop will be offered in almost every single time slot on the Annual Conference schedule:

Wed. April 22nd, 10:45am-12noon

- Advancing a Public Service Career Through Clerking: Strategies, Challenges and Guidance
- Shifting Legal Landscapes: How pro bono, Limited License Practitioners, and Technology Will Impact Public Sector Hiring

Wed. April 22nd, 1:30pm-2:45pm

- Alternative, Non-Traditional, & JD Advantage Careers in Public Service

Wed. April 22nd, 3:15pm-4:30pm

- Pro Bono: A Piece of the Access to Justice Puzzle

Wed. April 22nd, 3:15pm-4:30pm

- Watch What Happens Live – Inside the Department of Justice

Thurs. April 23rd, 7:30am-9:00am

- Public Service Section Meeting

Thurs. April 23rd, 9:00am-10:15am

- The Future of Student Debt Relief: Building on Public Service Loan Forgiveness

Thurs. April 23rd, 10:45am-12noon

- Leveraging Smartphones and Law Students to Grow Legal Aid
- Public Interest for the Long Haul: Preparing Students for Careers in Public Service

Thurs. April 23rd, 12noon-1:30pm – Public Service Luncheon

Thurs. April 23rd, 1:45pm-3:00pm

- Current Challenges in Public Interest Careers – Let's Talk!

Fri. April 24th, 10:30am-11:45am

- Social Justice and Affordable Fee Work: Supporting New Grads in New Practices

Fri. April 24th, 1:45pm-3:00pm

- Shattering Perceptions of Prosecutors: Exploring the Role of the Prosecutor in the Public Interest and in Communities of Color

During the Public Service Section Quarterly Conference Call, Kim Bart and Christina Jackson invited Section members to express interest in helping to coordinate the Annual Conference RFP process for the 2016 conference. Following the call, Christina and Kim communicated with 3 different section members about their interest in facilitating next year's RFP process for the Section.

Publications Work Group

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

Jen has coordinated a full slate of article contributors to the NALP *Bulletin*, to draft articles on public service-related topics each month. The topics remaining through the rest of this year are:

- 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.

On the most recent conference call, Jen encouraged the Section to begin to think about article topics for next year, noting that the NALP Bulletin publications process begins in May and that 10-12 article topics will need to be slated by mid-June. Jen noted that good article ideas often come out of the "hot topics" Conference panel each year, and she encouraged the Section to think about teaming up for co-authored topics.

LRAP Work Group

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

This group has continued its work refining the LRAP Guide, providing the Section with regular updates and analysis about "best practices" for creating and maximizing law school LRAP programs. The August 2014 Version of the Guide can be found in the Public Service Section of NALPconnect (members only) and on the NALP webpage (public).

The LRAP Work Group also has been very active in monitoring and reporting on proposals to modify the Federal Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program, a program to which many law school LRAP programs are structurally linked. The LRAP Work Group has connected with Isaac Bowers at 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.

During the Section Call, Isaac reported that the House has put forth a proposal to "eliminate" PSLF, but it remains unclear as to what this would mean for current law students and recent grads. Likely, elimination or drastic capping would be detrimental to many of the students with whom our Section membership works. EJW is advocating for the preservation of PSLF and on its website has a link to a survey where those affected may give feedback and share concerns. Isaac noted that Philip Schrag at

Georgetown Law Center also is coordinating some efforts to organize against modification or elimination of PSLF.

Because so many law school LRAP programs are structured around the federal PSLF program, the LRAP Work Group will continue to closely monitor proposed changes to the PSLF program, and will report back to the Section membership.

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 continues to coordinate 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. Anna Davis is leading the charge on developing the guide. The draft of the guide will be presented at the Equal Justice Conference in May.

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 CA bar admissions.

The work group also has done significant work in helping to build out the pro bono resources on the newly redesigned PSJD site, including a list of law school pro bono resources and a page summarizing bar admissions pro bono requirements. The Pro Bono Work Group intends to work closely next year with the Publications Work Group and the PSJD Work Group to continue to provide pro bono-related content to PSJD.

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 Work Group has been extremely active this year, and has accomplished a significant amount of work on behalf of the Section by helping with the redesign of PSJD.org. Earlier in the school year, members of 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. All current PSJD resources have now been updated.

The work group has 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, in order to build out additional resource sites. The Work Group also is asking Section members to provide updates, as available, for guides and resources that they may have lent to the site in the past. The Pro Bono work group is assisting with build-out of the pro bono resource site.

As 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. A section that continues to be under-development is “law-related” jobs in advocacy and politics, and the Work Group has invited Section members to contribute information and resourced to help build out this section.

Mini-Conference Planning Work Group

Vice-chair Katie Dilks, Georgetown University Law Center

This year's Public Service Section "Mini-Conference" was held on October 23, 2014 and was a resounding success. Well over 100 people attended the Mini-Conference this year, which offered a fantastic keynote speaker, a town hall-style lunch program, and two breakout sessions with 5 different workshop programs. The work group has compiled feedback from this year's Mini-Conference in order to kick off planning this summer for next year's Mini-Conference.