

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 30, 2013

TO: Nicole A. Vikan, NALP Board Liaison, Public Service Section

FROM: Leeor Neta, NALP Chair, Public Service Section

RE: **NALP Public Service Section Board Report**

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

Please find below a report of the Public Service Section's activities during the third quarter of the 2012-2013 NALP year.

Summary

Many of the Public Service Section's work groups are making excellent progress on their benchmarks, in particular the Diversity, LRAP and Pro Bono work groups. With additional encouragement, many of the other work groups will similarly rise to the challenge. I recommend phase out of only one of the work groups that—in its third year of existence—has not attracted the Section's interest. With that said, the Vice Chairs are continuing to make active use of NALPconnect, and proceeding with minimal oversight. Nearly 40 members attended our last quarterly conference call on Thursday, January 24. I continue to be very proud of the members of this section and the work they have performed.

Working Group Updates

1. ABA Accreditation Revision Process

Vice Chair: *Open*

In my last report, I had indicated that Carolyn Goodwin, the Director for Public Service and Pro Bono at Boston University School of Law, had agreed to complete Keeley Mitchell's term after Keeley left her position at the University of Pittsburgh. Unfortunately, Carolyn had to reconsider given some additional responsibilities at Boston University. During our quarterly conference call on Thursday, January 24, none of the Section members expressed interest in continuing the work of this work group. Under these circumstances, it may be necessary to phase out this work group.

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

Under Matt's leadership, this group is continuing work on its "best practices" guide. The guide is designed to help NALP members encourage minority students to consider public interest employment. The work group has interviewed colleagues at a variety of law schools about their successful efforts in this area, and has generated a preliminary list of best practices. A few more interviews are needed and Matt made a call for volunteers during our last quarterly conference call. At that point, the work group will evaluate the information it has and determine whether additional interviews are needed before it begins drafting the guide. The work group's plan is to complete and distribute the guide by the end of Matt's term or some time shortly thereafter

3. Experiential Learning
Vice Chair: Tara Casey, University of Richmond School of Law

This work group has had several telephonic meetings. Its first order of business was to evaluate the landscape in terms of organizations devoted to this issue. It was determined that many legal organizations are studying the importance of experiential learning in legal education—including the ABA, AALS and many others—and that the work group was sensitive about duplicating the efforts of other organizations. Although Tara was not able to join our last quarterly conference call, a member of the work group—Kim Bart—made a call for volunteers and welcomed advice about how to coordinate our efforts with other organizations.

4. Government Career Resources
Vice Chair: Kim Bart, Duke Law

After a very productive third quarter, the work group is continuing to study the new Pathways Hiring program. Now that the Pathways transition period has closed, the work group is evaluating which agencies continue to rely on Schedule A hiring for attorneys and which agencies have chosen to consolidate hiring through the new Schedule D hiring processes under Pathways. Another work group call has been scheduled for Monday, February 11. At that time, the work group will report on its progress regarding other benchmarks and brainstorm new ideas/initiatives.

5. Law Student Pro Bono
Vice Chair: Danielle Sorken, Brooklyn Law School

Initially, this work group has decided its mission would be twofold: one, to serve as a clearinghouse for information on the New York State pro bono requirement and, two, to develop resources for law school administrators and law students developing pro bono projects. More recently, however, the work group has decided to focus on the second of these. The plan now is to produce a "Best Practices Guide for Pro Bono Projects." The work group will interview colleagues at a variety of law schools about their successful efforts in this area. Danielle made a call for volunteers during our last quarterly conference call.

6. Loan Repayment Assistance Programs
Vice Chair: Kirsten Hill, UC Davis School of Law

The LRAP work group has nearly completed its “best practices guide.” The guide is designed to provide advice on how to fund and sustain LRAPs and how to coordinate with the Federal College Cost Reduction and Access Act. The work group has interviewed colleagues at a variety of law schools about their successful efforts in this area, and has generated a preliminary list of best practices. The work group’s goal is to release the Guide at or near the time for the 2013 NALP Annual Conference. Kirsten is also moderating a panel on LRAP at the Conference.

7. Annual Education Conference Program Proposals
Vice Chair: Andrew Chapin, Fordham University School of Law

No updates.

8. NALP/PSLawNet Public Service Mini-Conference Planning
Vice Chair: Danielle Sorken, Brooklyn Law School
Vice Chair: Nicole Vikan, Georgetown Law School

No updates.

9. Publications
Vice Chair: Samantha Z. Kasmarek, Syracuse University College of Law

The Publications work group continues to explore opportunities for external publication.

10. Public Service Employment Trends
Vice Chair: Philip A. Guzman, North Carolina Central University School of Law

The Public Service Employment Trends survey was launched near the end of October. The survey was initially open for approximately three weeks. Because survey responses were low, the survey was kept open longer. Still, we did not receive the same number of responses as we had in years past. Steve Grumm believes that this is due to his decision to postpone releasing the survey until October. The survey results will be analyzed and a report will be prepared for anticipated publication in the February 2013 issue of the Bulletin.

11. Public Service Employer Outreach
Vice Chair: *Open*

I have had a number of calls with Section members interested in this work group. Members want to focus on building positive, productive relationships with public interest employers around issues of professional development, student debt and loan repayment.

The work also plans to focus on preparing students for and supporting attorneys in successful long-term careers in public interest work, and partnering with organizations to help determine what sort of systemic reform may be necessary. It is further believed that NALP could serve as a resource to public interest employers about how best to capitalize on the young, talented pool of law school graduates produced by member schools.

Proposed Work Groups

None at this time.