

## Memorandum

To: Heather DiFranco, NALP Board Liaison, Public Service Section

Cc: Fred Thrasher, NALP Deputy Director; Sam Halpert, NALP Director of Public Service Initiatives and Fellowships

From: Amanda Furst, NALP Chair, Public Service Section (2017-2018)

Re: NALP Public Service Section Second Quarter Board Report

Date: February 1, 2018

This report contains updates on the activities of the NALP Public Service Section and its Work Groups for the third quarter. The 2017-2018 Public Service Section Work Groups and Vice-Chairs are:

LRAP/CCRAA Work Group: Susan Curry, Director of Public Interest Law and Policy, The University of Chicago | The Law School

Mini-Conference Planning Work Group: Rochelle McCain, Director of Public Interest and Government Relations, University of Pittsburgh School of Law

NALP Conference RFP Work Group: Swati Parikh, Director of Public Service Careers, New York Law School, and Elizabeth Boe, Assistant Director, Law Career Services, DePaul University College of Law

Pro Bono Work Group: Laura Burstein, Director of Public Service and Academic Success, SMU Dedman School of Law, and Jennifer Mencarini, Advisor, Office of Career and Student Development, Elon University School of Law

PSJD Resources Website Work Group: Michael Bergmann, Executive Director, Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI)

Publications Work Group: Sarah Bookbinder, Associate Director for Public Interest Advising, Suffolk University Law School

The first Public Service Section Quarterly Call was held on June 13<sup>th</sup> at 2pm CST. The second Quarterly Call was held on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 2pm CST. The third Quarterly call was held on January 23, 2018, at 2pm CST.

According to NALP Connect, the Public Service Section membership is currently at 299. 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 Sam Halpert, which has invaluable updates on hiring trends and other news. The NALP Connect platform continues to be used robustly, and the Section is engaged and supportive on it.

## **WORK GROUP UPDATES**

### LRAP Work Group

Vice-chair Susan Curry, Director of Public Interest Law and Policy, The University of Chicago | The Law School

The LRAP / CCRAA Work Group held a section call on June 13th and January 9th. The group continues to focus on PSLF this year in close partnership with EJW, while still providing resources to schools seeking to establish LRAPs. The Work Group plan has updated the list of law schools without LRAPs and their next steps include:

- Explore other webinar options for promoting LRAPs
- Surveying member schools with EJW to build direct connections to legislators.
- Continue to monitor, report on, and provide counseling advice on PSLF changes, including capping forgiveness.

### Mini- Conference Planning Work Group

Vice-chair Rochelle McCain, Director of Public Interest and Government Relations, University of Pittsburgh School of Law

The Mini Conference was held Wednesday, October 25th and Thursday, October 26th, at the offices of Sidley Austin in Washington DC. Led by Rochelle, Sam, and the Work Group, we successfully held the 4 breakout sessions, keynote speaker, and Public Interest 101 advising session and the Conference received positive feedback. We took time at the conference to promote work group volunteer opportunities and NALP involvement. As all seven of the Public Service Section RFPs were selected for the Annual NALP Conference, the Work Group stepped up to create all 4 breakout sessions for the Mini Conference.

This year's keynote speaker was Seema Sadanandan, Managing Director of Campaigns at the Alliance for Safety and Justice. Seema is an experienced documentary filmmaker and campaign strategist for social movements in the United States and abroad. Her keynote discussed movement lawyering. The breakout sessions were as follows:

- Government Hiring in the “New Normal”
- Advising the Growing Population of International Law Students (JD and LLMS)
- Counseling the Counselors
- Where is the Money?: Summer Funding and Beyond

### NALP Conference RFP Work Group

Vice-chairs: Swati Parikh, Director of Public Service Careers, New York Law School, and Elizabeth Boe, Assistant Director, Law Career Services, DePaul University College of Law  
All seven total proposals submitted on behalf of the public interest section were selected for the NALP Annual Conference. Proposals include:

1. The Country Lawyer: Rural Public Interest Jobs & Law Students
2. Gone But Not Forgotten: Engaging Alumni in Your Public Interest Career Programs
3. LIVE FROM HOLLYWOOD (Florida)... Tips for Landing a Leading Role with a Public Sector Employer
4. Followers to Leaders: Counseling Introverted/Follower Public Interest Students
5. Recruiting Top Lawyers with Student Loan Benefit Programs
6. One Size May Not Fit All: Revisiting Professional Development Training for Public Service Students and Lawyers
7. Should I Stay or Should I Go? Retention Strategies in the Private and Public Sectors

#### Pro Bono Work Group

Vice-chairs: Laura Burstein, Director of Public Service and Academic Success, SMU Dedman School of Law, and Jennifer Mencarini, Advisor, Office of Career and Student Development, Elon University School of Law

The Pro Bono Work Group has held one Work Group call on September 14th and a second on December 7th. The group is working on the following projects:

- Continue to compile information for and draft a “Best Practices” resource that will include information on how to develop pro bono opportunities for students. Some of the work of the AALS/NALP collaboration committee working this year on practice guides for psjd.org will help inform this goal.
- Track (and report back to the Section and NALP’s larger membership on) developments with other state bars considering adopting pro bono requirements similar to New York’s.
- Track and document whether member schools have a pro bono requirement, pledge, or other pro bono program.
- Collaborate with the New York Pro Bono Requirement Work Group in the International and Advanced Degree Recruiting and Advising Section as appropriate and work with AALS Section on Pro Bono.

#### PSJD Resources Work Group

Vice- chairs: Michael Bergmann, Executive Director, Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI)

The PSJD Work Group has done a thorough review of all of the Practice Area Guides available under the Explore Your Career Options of the PSJD Resource Center. They developed a template so that all Practice Guides follow the same formula, updated some guides and added some new ones. They are working on two new practice guides in the areas of Water Law and Think Tank/Public Policy and planning on adding practice guides for Veterans and Housing/Landlord-Tenant. They have also been reviewing and adding resources to the Applying & Interviewing Section of PSJD Resource Center.

#### Publications Work Group

Vice- chairs: Sarah Bookbinder, Associate Director for Public Interest Advising, Suffolk University Law School

The Publications Work Group has the following NALP Bulletin articles set through August.

Rochelle McCain	Building LRAPs	August
Amanda Furst	Promoting rural opportunities in public interest work	September
Claudia Melo	International students and public interest internships	October
Glory McLaughlin	Public interest law course planning	November
Sarah Bookbinder	UBE counseling and public interest students	December
Oscar Teran	Working with undocumented students	January
Theresa Schmiedleler	Self care for public interest law career counselors	February
April Giancolo	Importance of Federal background checks	March
Maureen Kieffer	Low bono practice	April
Laura Cohen & Sue Schechter	Value of attending conferences	May
Leah Adams	Democratization of legal services through technology	June

Laura Cohen & Sue Schechter	Experiential education and how it leads to employment	July
Elisha Garvey	TBD	August