

MEMORANDUM

TO: Cybele Smith, NALP Board Liaison, Public Service Section

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

FROM: Samantha Z. Kasmarek, NALP Chair, Public Service Section

RE: **NALP Public Service Section 2nd Quarter Board Report**

DATE: October 15, 2013

Please find below a report of the Public Service Section's activities during the second quarter of the 2013-2014 NALP year.

SUMMARY

Despite juggling the start of a new school year and fall recruiting, the Public Service Section has continued to be very active this quarter. The Section's second quarterly conference call was on October 1, 2013. Updates on Annual Conference proposals and *Bulletin* articles were shared as was the schedule of events for the NALP/PSJD Mini-Conference. For those who could not make the call, the meeting minutes were posted to NALPconnect as a resource and an announcement was made to that effect. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 7, 2013 at 2 pm Eastern.

The Public Service Section also continued to add members on its NALP Connect page during this quarter. Approximately 10 NALP members joined the section and were sent the "Welcome" e-mail with information about our work groups and contact information for both myself and Christina Jackson.

WORK GROUP UPDATES

Annual Education Conference Program Proposals (Seattle, 2014)
Vice Chair: Andrew Chapin, Fordham Law School

The Annual Conference RFP Workgroup shepherded 15 RFPs on behalf of the Public Service Section. The group was pleased to hear that just over half of the programs were selected, including one geared towards mid-career professionals as requested by NALP President Stacey Kielbasa. Programs accepted for the 2014 Annual Conference in Seattle are:

- Beyond the Public Interest Basics: Exploring "Low-Bono", Access to Justice, and What it Means for our Students

- Current Issues in Public Service
- Financial and Career Management: Help Students Surmount the Burden of Debt
- Hypothetically Speaking 2.0: Taking Prosecutor and Public Defender Interview Preparation to the Next Level
- International Public Interest Fellowships – Opening a World of Possibilities for our Graduates
- Pro Bono Coast To Coast : Mandatory Is the Talk of the Country
- Public Service Job Fairs: A Roadmap for Law School Professionals
- The Successful Government Summer: Preparing Students for Public Sector Legal Internships

Publications

Vice Chair: Katie Dilks, Georgetown

The Publications work group once again submitted article proposals for every NALP *Bulletin* issue this year. The Public Service Section is pleased to announce that the full slate, as proposed, was accepted. Articles published thus far have been well-received. The group continues to explore blog posts and has asked for additional volunteers to assist with this project.

Articles submitted and published on behalf of the Public Service Section during the 2nd Quarter include:

- **July 2013:** “Making the Case for Public Interest Graduates to Go Rural” by Kirsten Hill, UC Davis (submitted as part of the 2012-2013 slate)
- **August 2013:** “How Social Entrepreneurship Can Close the Justice Gap” by Ashley Matthews, NALP/PSJD Fellow
- **September 2013:** “From the Director of Public Service Initiatives: In the Public Interest 2.0 – What’s New?” by Christina Jackson, NALP
- **September 2013:** “Public Interest Advising 101: Where to Begin?” by Samantha Kasmarek, Syracuse
- **October 2013:** “Law School Incubator Programs: Models and Best Practices” by Katie Dilks, Georgetown

There were also quite a few other public service oriented articles published this quarter that, although not formally on behalf of the Public Service Section, show the broad range of issues Public Service Section members can deal with on a daily basis. Examples of these articles include:

- **July 2013:** “Federal Programs Make Strong Loan Repayment Assistance Programs Affordable”
- **September 2013:** Implications of the New York State Bar’s “50 Hour Rule” for Foreign-Trained LL.M. Students” (with an update provided in the **October 2013 Bulletin**).

As mentioned above, annual Conference proposals submitted by the Public Service Section on both loan forgiveness and pro bono were accepted for the 2014 Annual Conference in Seattle.

NALP/PSJD Mini-Conference Planning
Vice Chair: Nicole Vikan (Georgetown)

The NALP/PSJD Mini-Conference (“Mini-Conference”) will take place later this month on Thursday, October 24th. (Public Interest Advising 101 will once again take place the day before on Wednesday, October 23rd.)

The schedule of events has been changed up to give the Mini-Conference a new feel. Changes include:

- **The Plenary will be in the morning.** Those planning the Mini-Conference are very excited for the guest speaker who will discuss transgender issues and how to counsel students around those issues.
- **The Pro Bono Publico Award:** The award will now be given at the recipient’s law school, so only an announcement about the winner will take place at lunch. Attendees will now have a longer opportunity to chat with friends and colleagues. (As a side note, counselors took the time to nominate almost 30 students, with new schools making submissions.)
- **Employer Networking Reception:** This year, invitations were accepted by not only the local government agencies, but also national non-profits. So, in the event that the government shut-down extends to the Mini-Conference, the networking reception will still take place.

As in past years, there will be three break-out sessions for attendees to choose from:

- **Two-Year Fellowship Programs:** JD Fellowships Beyond the Big “2”
- **Behavioral Interviewing:** How to Prepare Students and Evaluate Their Responses
- **Best Practices for Law Student Pro Bono:** The CLEA Chapter & More

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

The group has connected with members of the Diversity & Inclusion Sections Public Interest workgroup to determine what information NALP collects in order to determine what research needs to be done and what form the work product should take. They will meet during the 3rd Quarter to assess the information and determine the best way to move forward.

Pro Bono Work Group

Co-Vice Chairs: Kim Bart, Duke Law, Danielle Sorken, Brooklyn Law

The group continues to work towards its established benchmark. This quarter, a draft survey was developed. The group hopes to use it when reaching out to schools to learn about best practices for pro bono projects. The draft survey is currently being reviewed by group members with plans to have it finalized the week of November 4th. Outreach should start in January 2014.

Loan Repayment Assistance Programs (LRAP)

Vice Chair: Kirsten Hill, UC Davis School of Law

This past quarter, the LRAP group prepared an initial draft of the “Tying LRAP Benefits to the CCRAA” section of the soon-to-be LRAP Best Practices Guide. Group members will discuss comments and questions at the next meeting, which will take place later this fall.

Group members also put together a solid outline of the “How to Start and Fund an LRAP Program” section as well. The group is incorporating and updating several existing resources as well as a summary of the research the work-group did last year. They are still indentifying and reaching out to “experts” from other schools to include in this portion. They hope to have a draft of this section as well before the end of the 4th Quarter.

Public Service Course for Mid-Career Professionals –201 Course

Vice Chair: Andrew Chapin (Annual Education Conference Program Proposal Vice-Chair)

The Public Service Section was pleased to have its 201 Course proposal for the 2014 Annual Conference accepted.

Katie Dilks (Assistant Director for Public Interest Programs, Georgetown University Law Center), Kelly Tautges (Director of Pro Bono & Court Advocacy, Chicago Bar Foundation), and Catherine Brown (Staff Attorney, for Gonzaga Law School Moderate Means Program) will present: Beyond the Public Interest Basics: Exploring “Low-Bono”, Access to Justice, and What it Means for our Students.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCANNING

Although the student loan repayment and pro bono continue to be active issues in the media, the more current issue in the news involves the government shutdown:

The Impact of the Government Shutdown on Law Students:

Law school administrators have been working to help externs find other hands on experience:

http://www.law.com/jsp/nlj/PubArticleNLJ.jsp?id=1202622507896&Government_Shutdown_Puts_Law_Student_Externs_on_the_Street&slreturn=20130909143758

However, it appears there may be some impact on the hiring timelines for Honors programs as well. Some invitations for Honors Program interviews were sent out prior to the shutdown, but emails are now bouncing back and no one seems to be answering the telephones. It is unclear whether deadlines will be moved post-shutdown, but Public Service Section members are actively seeking and sharing what information they have with each other.

IN CLOSING

The Second Quarter coincides with quite a busy time of year for those involved in public service. Fortunately, through the dedication and diligence of group members, I believe the Public Service Section continued to make some impressive progress on established initiatives.