

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 4th Quarter Board Report**

DATE: March 18, 2014

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

SUMMARY

The Section's Fourth Quarter conference call was on March 4, 2014. Amongst other great updates, the LRAP Group further discussed its new resource that will launch sometime in April. 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 Public Service Section also continued to build its NALP Connect community 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 Public Service Section meeting at the Annual Conference will take place Wednesday, April 9th at 12:15. The Public Interest Luncheon will be Thursday, April 10 at 12:30. The luncheon speaker is Lisa Daugaard: Policy Director for the [Racial Disparity Project](#) (the RDP) at the [Public Defender Association](#) in Seattle, WA.

There are 8 Public Interest programs at the Annual Conference. The public interest track in the brochure is the column symbol. Of special note – the Social Justice Tour will be Friday, April 11 from 2-5 pm. A \$5 donation is asked to cover costs. A bus tour will take participants to some significant sites including the site of Occupy Seattle. Pre-registration is required, so those interested should contact the NALP office (202-835-1001) to sign-up.

The RFP process is now also open for the 2015 annual conference. School members were encouraged to use Spring Break to generate ideas and everyone should use this year's programs to generate ideas and to talk to colleagues at the conference about collaborating.

Publications

Vice Chair: Katie Dilks, Georgetown

The Public Service Section continues to have a presence in every NALP *Bulletin*. Public Service *Bulletin* articles published during the 4th Quarter include:

- February:
Using Technology to Advance the Job Search (Diane Fears, Wayne State)

- March:
In the Public Interest 2.0: Public Service Hiring Shows Small Signs of Improvement (Christina Jackson, NALP)

Pro Bono Requirements: The Tale of Two Coasts and Somewhere in Between
(Rachel Kronick Rothbart, USC Gould School of Law & Danielle Sorken, Brooklyn)

In addition, it is noteworthy to mention that a previous June 2010 *Bulletin* article written by the Section's current Publications Vice-Chair, Katie Dilks, was cited in a report by the Center for Research on Gender in the Professions: "Legal Professions: The Status of Women and Men."

<http://crgp.ucsd.edu/documents/GenderinLegalProfessionsCaseStudy.pdf>
(Footnote 14).

NALP/PSJD Mini-Conference Planning

Vice Chair: Nicole Vikan (Georgetown)

No new updates – looking forward to planning for 2014 Mini-Conference.

Diversity in Public Service Employment Sector

Vice Chair: Matt Gewolb, Columbia Law School

The group continues to work with the Diversity & Inclusion Section to determine what information NALP collects. The groups are working together and finding the conversations productive. The next step is to determine what information is gathered from employers.

Pro Bono Work Group

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

The work group is finalizing a short survey to law school pro bono programs which focus on specific areas (i.e., hot areas like transactional or veterans' issues). The results will be the foundation for Best Practices/Nuts & Bolts to help those starting new programs or expanding.

Loan Repayment Assistance Programs (LRAP)

Vice Chair: Kirsten Hill, UC Davis School of Law

The work group will release its Best Practices Guide on NALPconnect in April. This Guide will cover funding and tying a program to the federal programs. It is a work in progress and they hope once its released, others will contribute and get involved in the work of the group. As mentioned above under Publications, an overview of the resource will be included in the April NALP *Bulletin*.

The next phase for the group is to look at the administration of programs and eligibility requirements.

Public Service Course for Mid-Career Professionals –201 Course

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

This program is also on target for the Conference in April.

WEBCASTS

This quarter saw several Public Service Section members participate in a two-part webcast on the summer public interest job search. The webcasts were a collaboration between PSJD/NALP and Equal Justice Works.

The Summer Public Interest Job Search Part I - Best Practices in Drafting Cover Letters and Résumés was presented January 23, 2014 by Robin Edwards (NY County DA), Barry Taylor (Equip for Equality), Ashley Matthews (NALP/PSJD), and Christina Jackson (NALP).

The Summer Public Interest Job Search Part II - Best Practices in Interviewing and In-person Networking was presented January 24, 2014 by Akua Akyea (Yale), Ivy Finkenstadt (Legal Aid Justice Center), and Nita Mazumder (EJW – now at Howard University)

Webcasts available on NALP website:

http://www.nalp.org/public_interest_summer_job_search_webinars

NEW WORK GROUP FOR 2014-2015

PSJD Resources Work Group

I was pleased to hear this quarter that the proposed PSJD Resources Work Group was approved. The group will begin first with compiling Capitol Hill job search resources in the NALP 2014-2015 year.

PUBLIC INTEREST ISSUES BEING MONITORED

Public Service Loan Forgiveness and Obama's 2015 Budget Proposal.

Public Service Section members expressed some concern over Obama's proposed 2015 Budget. It looks to cap loan forgiveness for public service workers at \$57,500. Heather Jarvis and Equal Justice Works gave some great insight and put together useful information for section members. Right now, at worst, many believe that in the long run this may inspire some standalone legislation or effect negotiations over the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. But, section members, along with the LRAP work group will undoubtedly be keeping an eye on this going forward. Fortunately, we have access to some great resources. More information can be found here: <http://askheatherjarvis.com/blog/will-proposed-cuts-to-public-service-loan-forgiveness-impact-existing-borro>.

IN CLOSING

The time between the Third Quarter and Fourth Quarter was quite short in light of the early April Annual Conference. But, the work groups continued to make progress. Many thanks are due to NALP's Christina Jackson – despite being a transition year as she assumed her new role, her assistance and support was really a driving force behind the success of the Public Service Section.

I am grateful for the opportunity to have served as Chair of the Public Service Section in 2013-2014. The group will be in great hands with the 2014-2015 Section Chair, Kim Bart from Duke.