

## Memorandum

**To:** Layke Martin, NALP Board Liaison, Public Service Section

**Cc:** Fred Thrasher, NALP Deputy Director; Christina Jackson, NALP Director of Public Service Initiatives and Fellowships

**From:** Danielle Sorken, NALP Chair, Public Service Section (2015-2016)

**Re:** NALP Public Service Section Fourth Quarter Board Report

**Date:** March 24, 2016

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This report contains updates on the activities of the NALP Public Service Section and its Work Groups for the first quarter. The 2015-2016 Public Service Section Work Groups and Vice-Chairs are:

- LRAP/CCRAA Work Group: Nicole Simmons, Director of Public Service Programs, University of Texas School of Law
- Mini-Conference Planning Work Group: Katie Dilks, Assistant Director for Public Interest Programs, Georgetown University Law Center
- NALP Conference RFP Work Group: Samantha Zappia Kasmarek, Associate Director for Career and Professional Development, Syracuse University College of Law and Jaya Saxena, Assistant Director, Diversity and Inclusion at GW Law's Center for Professional Development and Career Strategy
- Pro Bono Work Group: Jen Tschirch, Assistant Director of Pro Bono Programs at Georgetown University Law Center and Laura Dym Cohen, Associate Clinical Professor of Law Director, Street Law Clinic & Community Outreach, Southwestern Law School
- PSJD Resources Website Work Group: Michael Bergmann, Executive Director, Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI)
- Publications Work Group: Jen Pollard, Director of Judicial Clerkships & Government Programs, University of Maryland School of Law

The Fourth Public Service Section Quarterly Call was held on March 23 at 3:00pm EST.

According to NALP Connect, the Public Service Section membership has grown to 290. 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 Christina Jackson, which has invaluable updates on hiring trends and other news.

### WORK GROUP UPDATES

#### NALP Conference RFP Work Group

Vice-chair Samantha Zappia Kasmarek, Associate Director for Career and Professional Development, Syracuse University College of Law and Jaya Saxena, Assistant Director, Diversity and Inclusion at GW Law's Center for Professional Development and Career Strategy

This year, the Annual Education Conference RFP Work Group helped coordinate 13 RFPs on behalf of the Public Service Section, including programs in collaboration with the Small/Solo CSO Section, Employer Outreach Section and Diversity/Inclusion Section. Samantha and Jaya have outreached to each of the

lead speakers. The programs are going smoothly and will be ready for the NALP Annual Education Conference only a few weeks away.

As a recap, the following programs, featuring topics of particular interest to the Public Service Section membership, will be presented at NALP’s 2016 Annual Education Conference in Boston:

- “Implementing the Essentials of Public Interest Advising” - Dena Bauman, Alisa Benedict O'Brien, and Fairuz Abdullah
- "Incubators and Beyond: Building an Entrepreneurial Access to Justice Program" - Katie Dilks, Laura Cohen, Gerald Slater, and Leonard Zandrow
- "Opening Lines of Communication - Employer and CSO Relations from the Employer's Perspective" - Lillian Evans, Lisa Bernt, and Cybele Smith
- "Perspectives on Loan Forgiveness and Student Debt" - Robert Jack, Adam S. Minsky, Esq., Isaac Bowers, and Heather Jarvis
- "Wonderful World of International Organizations" - David Glasgow, Miriam Ingber, Aican Nguyen, and Virginia Greiman
- "Utilizing your Federal Work Study or Externship Program to Conduct Employer Outreach" - Michelle Vodenik, Ruta Stropus, and Jessica Heywood

Publications Work Group

Vice-chair Jen Pollard, Director of Judicial Clerkships & Government Programs, University of Maryland School of Law

The Publications Work Group has been successfully submitting articles to the NALP *Bulletin*. The schedule has gone very smoothly this year. The remaining articles are:

Amanda Furst (UMN)	Using data/outcomes for public interest careers	April
Meredith O’Keefe (UConn)	Public service careers/lower paid attorneys being happier and conveying info to students	May
Isaac Bowers (EJW) & Robert Jack (St. Thomas)	PSLF Update	June
Claudia Melo (UMN)	Strategic planning around public service goals in a career office	July
Katie Dilks (Georgetown)	Using technology—how apps are making for better access to justice	August

LRAP Work Group

Vice-chair Nicole Simmons, Director of Public Service Programs, University of Texas School of Law

The Work Group is continuing to focus on the completion of a nationwide LRAP survey that was sent through NALP Connect to all NALP schools. The goal of the survey is to determine where LRAP stands 10 years after the initial LRAP survey. A follow-up study based on the survey will examine how it has changed or not changed in light of the current economic climate and PSLF/CCRAA. The survey closed on March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016 and 62 schools responded. The initial survey had fewer responses from the West/Rocky Mountain and Mid-Atlantic region. The working group performed targeted outreach to those regions to gain additional responses.

The working group hopes to report back on the survey at the NALP Annual Education Conference in April 2016 as well as draft an article for the NALP bulletin. Christina Jackson will draft the NALP Bulletin article, anticipated to run in the June 2016 issue.

#### Pro Bono Work Group

Vice-chairs Jen Tschirch, Assistant Director of Pro Bono Programs, Georgetown University Law Center and Laura Dym Cohen, Associate Clinical Professor of Law and Director, Street Law Clinic & Community Outreach, Southwestern Law School

The Pro Bono Work Group has continued to provide updates on the New York State and California pro bono requirements. The working group calls have also served as a platform to share ideas. The call participants discussed law firm and pro bono collaboration in law schools.

This quarter the group focused on updating PSJD.org resources. The group is working on creating a new resource on pro bono supervision and updating existing resources.

#### PSJD Resources Work Group

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

The PSJD Resources Work Group has been hard at work updating the PSJD Practice Guides. They completed their initial project for this year, developing a template for our practice area guides so that the content is as universally consistent as possible. This quarter the work group focused on finalizing conforming existing resources to the template. All except four of the guides are “live” on PSJD.org. The remaining guides to be conformed prior to the end of the year are: Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, Conservative Public Interest Law, Education Law and Environmental Law.

#### Mini-Conference Planning Work Group

Vice-chair Katie Dilks, Assistant Director for Public Interest Programs, Georgetown University Law Center

This year’s Public Service Section “Mini-Conference” was held on October 22, 2015. The Public Interest 101 session and the Mini-Conference were terrific and well attended. The Work Group received positive responses to the feedback survey they distributed. The group is already thinking ahead to next year.

Other section activities:

On our section call we discussed the proposed changes to 1L meeting guidelines that have been put out for comment. The email to the NALP community read:

*At their February Board meeting, NALP's Board of Directors proposed the removal of the specific date restrictions for interaction between 1Ls and career services professionals, and between 1Ls and employers, as they appear in Part V.D. of NALP's Principles and Standards*

Several section members on the call were concerned that the elimination of the October 15<sup>th</sup> deadline would cause an increase in stress and anxiety in an already tense 1L experience. Some also pointed out that 1Ls will not have a good sense of public interest law or have much to say on a public interest internship application or in an interview that early. However, the section wasn’t unanimous on these points, and some section members pointed out that some students come to law school ready to start the summer search in September, and the new guidelines allow for greater flexibility as well as more time to prepare students for the NYU PILC Fair.

Also, from the employer perspective, the feeling was that smaller employers won't really be influenced and that only very large programs might push up their deadlines by removal of the specific date restriction for interaction between 1Ls and employers.

**Update from NALP on PSJD.org:** Christina Jackson let the section know that the employer tools on PSJD.org have been updated to streamline postings. Christina also said that they will be improving the search function on PSJD.org.