

To: NALP Board of Directors
From: Nicole Vikan, Chair, NALP Public Service Section
Date: October 15, 2009
Re: Second Quarterly Report

The Public Service Section has five Work Groups; below please find a summary of the work for each Group: 2010 NALP Annual Conference Proposal Submissions (the Section will have five programs in Puerto Rico); Federal Job-Seeking Resources (which has expanded to state and local government resources as well); Monitoring the Recession's Impact on the Public Service Job Market; Publications; and Public Service Mini-Conference Planning.

WORK GROUP REPORTS

2010 NALP ANNUAL CONFERENCE PROPOSAL SUBMISSIONS AND SELECTIONS

Work Group Members: Cybele Smith (Ohio State—Chair), Andrew Chapin (Fordham), Tom Schoenherr (Fordham), Jessica Mehl (Toledo), Cindy Wilson (Northwestern), Sean Rhiney (Cincinnati)

The following programs were selected for the 2010 Annual Education Conference:

- *Deferred Associates and Public Sector Placements: Looking back and building relationships.* Michelle Stevens, Kelly S. Mixon, Jennifer Thomas, Cybele E. Smith
- *“Uncle Sam Wants You”: Exploring the scope and breadth of legal career opportunities offered by The Judge Advocate General’s Corps.* Alfred Ray English, Afsana Ahmed, Eric McDonald, Holly Bryant, Martha A. Rodriguez
- *External support for public service initiatives: Meet the CAPSILS Team.* Charlene Gomes, Steve Grumm, Melanie Kushnir, Arlene Rivera Finkelstein
- *Public Interest Workshop - What's Working, What's Not, & Hot Topics.* Andrew Chapin, Stuart Smith, Nicole Vikan, Valerie Kapilow, Charlene Gomes

In addition, after the Conference selections were made, the Public Service Section was asked to create an additional program, *Federal Career Counseling for Beginners*. The speakers will be Karen Comstock and Paula Nailon.

The following Annual Conference proposals were declined:

- *Law School Pro Bono Toolbox: A Nuts and Bolts Approach to Program Development.* Melanie Kushnir, Marni Lennon, Tom Maligno, Kristin Erickson
- *Tips and Tricks for Getting Into Government.* Tari Williams, Dena Bauman, Tamara Brooks, Gail Johnson

FEDERAL JOB-SEEKING RESOURCES

Work Group Members: Donna Miller (Illinois), Dena Bauman (UDC), Judy Corello (William & Mary), Toni St. John (Maryland), Jessica Mehl (Toledo), Heather DiFranco (Case Western), and Alyssa Dragnich (PSU/Dickinson)

This team worked with Steve Grumm of NALP to adapt the “Government Careers” resource available on PSLawNet onto a free print resource, *The 2009-10 NALP Federal Legal Employment Opportunities Guide*.

Dena Bauman is spearheading a group of volunteers to create a collection of resources for **state and local government** opportunities nationwide. The finished product will be available on PSLawNet. The project is slated for completion at the beginning of 2010.

MONITORING THE RECESSION'S IMPACT ON THE PUBLIC SERVICE JOB MARKET

Work Group Members: Carol Vizzier (Washington University), Rachel Dawson (John Marshall), Nicole Clark (U. Texas), Alisa Rosales (DePaul—Chair), Judy Corello (William & Mary), Cindy Wilson (Northwestern), Michelle Harper (Suffolk), Melanie Kushnir (ABA), and Ericka Hines (EJW)

Vice-Chair Alisa Rosales offered this report: “The Recessional Impact Work Group has met twice via conference call – July 1 and September 23, 2009. In the first call, the group discussed our mission from the Board, the upcoming proposed sessions for the Annual Conference and Bulletin articles, and how various offices have been working with deferred associates. Equal Justice Works reported that they have received greater funding for the both of their AmeriCorps programs – Fellows and Summer Corps. Our second call focused on the upcoming PSLawNet Mini-Conference and Equal Justice Works Conference (which most of the members will be attending), how our advising services have changed due to deferred associates and renewed interest in especially judicial clerkships and federal government. The next call has been scheduled for December 2009, and will focus on the changing landscape and outcomes.” All Public Service Section members will be invited to join the December 2009 call.

PUBLICATIONS

Work Group Members: Jennifer Flexner (Tulsa), Nicole Ayala (U. Conn), Jessica Mehl (Toledo), Susan DeCostanza (Chicago-Kent), Teresa Schmiedeler (U. Maryland), and Heather DiFranco (Case Western—Chair)

Heather DiFranco provided the following update:

Salena Copeland (EJW Fellow at the Public Interest Clearinghouse) submitted a great article for the September issue of the *NALP Bulletin*, outlining the Rural Education and Access to the Law Project that PIC created and suggesting ideas for how this program can be replicated in other states.

The October *NALP Bulletin* will include a feature article on surviving “stress interviews,” written by Nicole Ayala at University of Connecticut.

Additional upcoming articles include:

November 2009 Issue: "Not Your Stepping Stone": Networking Without Treating People as a Means to an End, by Anna Marshall (George Washington University)

December 2009 Issue: Helping Your Public Interest Students Using Work Study Money, by Carol Thompson (Valparaiso University)

January 2010 Issue: Tips and Pointers on Drafting a Public Interest Resume, by Jessica Mehl (University of Toledo) and Anneliese Gryta (Advocates for Basic Legal Equality)

February 2010 Issue: Counseling the Public International Law Student, by Lorri Olan (Washington & Lee University)

March 2010 Issue: As They Move On: Outcomes and Results of Deferred Associate Placement at Public Interest Organizations, by Alisa Morales and Susan DeCostanza

April 2010 Issue: The Winding Road to the Public Sector, by Kim Baxter (George Mason University) and Nicole Vikan (Georgetown)

May 2010 Issue: Breaking Into Public Policy and Administration, by Paula Nailon (University of Arizona)

We have also updated two NALP pamphlets: Public Service Careers: Explore Your Options; and Public Sector/Public Interest Internships: Career Development Opportunities for All Law Students.

PUBLIC SERVICE MINI-CONFERENCE PLANNING

Work Group Members: Steve Grumm (NALP), Jarrod Shirk (American—Chair), Lauren Dubin (Georgetown), Nicole Vikan (Georgetown)

The Mini-Conference is an annual event that takes place the prior to the Equal Justice Works Conference and Career Fair. This year's Mini-Conference is scheduled for Thursday, October 22 and Friday, October 23, 2009. The schedule is as follows:

Thursday, October 22, 2009

- Public Interest Advising 101
 - Intro/Welcome Session
 - “Revolving Breakouts”
 - Administering a Pro Bono Program
 - Public Service Programming
 - Coalition for the Advancement of Public Service in Law Schools Resource Guide
- Round-robin Dinner

Friday, October 23, 2009

- Mini-Conference at Arnold & Porter:
 - Welcome and Introductions
 - Public Service Section Meeting and Town Hall Discussion Forum
 - PSLawNet & NALP Update
 - Lunch and 15th Annual Pro Bono Publico Award Ceremony
 - Breakout Sessions:
 - *The Role of Law School Public Service Professionals Amidst a Changing Legal Economy and Legal Education Landscape*
 - *Job Application Workshop – Drafting the Best Resumes and Cover Letters, and Effective Interviewing*
 - *Communicating With (Not To!) Students Via Web 2.0 and Emerging Social Media*
 - Plenary: *Federal Legal Employment – What’s Really Going on Behind the Federal Curtain, and How Are Lawyers Getting There*

Saturday, October 24, 2009

- EJW Career Fair: NALP networking happy hour

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Over the next five years, NALP Public Service Section members are likely to be facing longer-term implications of the current economic crisis.

- There may be more private sector lawyers with a commitment to public sector work because of their deferral experiences and/or because more people will begin their legal careers in the public sector.

- Public service career counselors may have more alumni who have worked in both the private and public spheres, who may seek career advice for themselves and be able to assist current students.
- Because public service legal employers value practical training, law schools might increase their emphasis on practical skill-building experiences—a trend that has begun already.
- Because of the increasing number of attorneys who will be working in both the private and public sectors and the importance of practical training for public service work, counselors may be able to help instill more of a pro bono culture within their law schools. The Mini-Conference panel, *The Role of Law School Public Service Professionals Amidst a Changing Legal Economy and Legal Education Landscape*, will tackle this topic.
- Unfortunately, the non-profit hiring market may remain smaller and more competitive, if the private market continues to struggle and/or private employers try to hire more laterals and fewer entry level attorneys.
- Public service counselors must continue to address the deferment trickle-down and the effect it's likely to have on the students who come to law school with the intent of practicing public interest law

Another issue that all NALP members will be facing in the coming years is social networking: how can we utilize Facebook, Twitter, email, and our own websites to help students (as counselors) or market ourselves (as employers)? The Mini-Conference program, *Communicating With (Not To!) Students Via Web 2.0 and Emerging Social Media*, will focus on this issue.

Also, as student and alumni interest in government employment continues to surge—because of the economy and, for some, the administration—how can we make the often-difficult government hiring process to be as manageable as possible, and can we contribute to the federal government's efforts to reorganize its hiring systems? The Mini-Conference Plenary, *Federal Legal Employment – What's Really Going on Behind the Federal Curtain, and How Are Lawyers Getting There*, will address this subject.

Thank you. Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions.

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