

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 24, 2012

TO: Nicole A. Vikan, NALP Board Liaison, Public Service Section

FROM: Leeor Neta, NALP Chair, Public Service Section

RE: **NALP Public Service Section Board Report**

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

Please find below a report of the Public Service Section's activities during the second quarter of the 2012-2013 NALP year.

Summary

After establishing their benchmarks in the first quarter, nearly all of the Public Service Section's work groups made steady progress in the second quarter, meeting or reevaluating many of their goals. The Vice Chairs are making active use of NALPconnect, participating in our quarterly conference calls, and proceeding with minimal oversight. I am supremely proud of the members of this section and the work they have performed.

Working Group Updates

1. ABA Accreditation Revision Process

Vice Chair: Keeley Mitchell, University of Pittsburgh School of Law

A few weeks ago, the Vice Chair left her position at the University of Pittsburgh. I am still in the process of attempting to identify her replacement. Unfortunately, little progress has been made regarding the work group's benchmarks in the second quarter.

2. Diversity in Public Service Employment Sector

Vice Chair: Matt Gewolb, Columbia Law School

This work group has revisited and reevaluated a few of its initial benchmarks. Under Matt's leadership, the work group has considered NALP's role in encouraging diversity in public interest legal practice and has determined that the best way for the organization to be involved this year is for the work group to produce and disseminate a "best practices" guide to help NALP members encourage minority students to consider public interest employment. The work group is in the process of interviewing colleagues at a variety of law schools about their successful efforts in this area. This initial information

gathering phase should be complete by the beginning of November. At that point, the work group will evaluate the information it has and determine whether additional interviews are needed before it begins drafting the guide.

3. Experiential Learning

Vice Chair: Tara Casey, University of Richmond School of Law

This work group was recently constituted. It is in the process of developing its benchmarks for the coming year.

4. Government Career Resources

Vice Chair: Kim Bart, Duke Law

The Government Resources work group got off to a good start, working with Steve Grumm to advise on the new Pathways Hiring program and NALP's "Federal Legal Employment Opportunities Guide 2012-13". In September, the Vice Chair had a good conversation with Jennifer Close at Partnership for Public Service about law hiring-related questions with the Pathways Program. The Pathways rule went into effect on July 10, 2012, and there is a 180-day transition period (ending January 6, 2013) for agencies to convert to the new program. For the most part, Pathways will complement and not replace Schedule A hiring for attorneys, but more agencies may choose to consolidate hiring through the new Schedule D hiring processes under Pathways. Another work group call will not be scheduled until after the PSJD Mini-Conference.

5. Law Student Pro Bono

Vice Chair: Danielle Sorken, Brooklyn Law School

This new work group has recruited 15 members. The Vice Chair reports that NALPconnect provided invaluable assistance in this regard. The work group has had two conference calls so far and is in the process of scheduling its third. It has had several discussions about the New York State pro bono requirement and its impact on the law school community in New York and beyond. The group decided its mission would be twofold: one, to serve as a clearinghouse for information on the New York State pro bono requirement and, two, to develop resources for law school administrators and law students developing pro bono projects. To further those goals, the work group has developed a few action items:

- Create an FAQ for LLM students on the New York State pro bono requirement. (Hilary Exter already started this with outreach to the LLM Section)
- Reach out to the ABA Pro Bono Committee for advice and counsel.
- Use NALPconnect to collect information on medical-legal partnerships, transactional pro bono, projects that work on international human rights and veterans justice.

6. Loan Repayment Assistance Programs
Vice Chair: Kirsten Hill, UC Davis School of Law

The LRAP work group has decided to narrow the scope of its research and focus on two key issues for an eventual best practices guide. The work group no longer plans to publish the best practices guide this year. Instead, the work group will endeavor to complete two sections of a future guide. To create these sections, the work group will identify and closely examine nine schools with particularly well-developed LRAP programs: Harvard, Yale, USC, Berkeley, Michigan, Northwestern, Georgetown, and Rutgers. The work group divided the schools among the members and will complete its research by the end of the year. The work group has uploaded a resource to NALPconnect: the Georgetown University Law Review article on coordinating LRAP benefits with the CCRAA.

7. NALPconnect
Vice Chair: Jessica Kitson, Rutgers School of Law - Newark

In line with the work group's benchmarks, every Vice Chair has posted a picture to NALPconnect and every Vice Chair, with the exception of two, has posted a bio. Jessica and I have also encouraged several of the more active work groups to post their conference calls as events on NALPconnect, and to post resources and other work group product to NALPconnect.

The work group had initially planned to organize regular discussions and announcements on NALPconnect. It was ultimately decided that this was unnecessary given the comparatively heavy traffic on the Public Service Section's NALPconnect page: 33 announcements and 42 discussions in the last two quarters.

Jessica has recently stepped down from her role as the Vice Chair. Given the work group's accomplishments, I decided that the work group made sufficient progress and I am not planning to replace her.

8. Annual Education Conference Program Proposals
Vice Chair: Andrew Chapin, Fordham University School of Law

No updates.

9. NALP/PSLawNet Public Service Mini-Conference Planning
Vice Chair: Danielle Sorken, Brooklyn Law School
Vice Chair: Nicole Vikan, Georgetown Law School

The Mini-Conference will offer unique workshops and speakers, including a fun and interactive plenary. At the Mini-Conference, NALP members will learn more about issues relevant to public sector counselors and employers, make new contacts, and reengage with old contacts. Programming will begin on Wednesday, October 24, with Public Interest Advising 101, a program designed with the new public interest counselor in mind. This energizing session was followed by an opportunity to relax with one's colleagues at a pay-

your-own-way networking dinner—everyone was invited, both newcomers and experienced professionals. The Public Service Section business meeting and an open forum town hall discussion will lead off the Mini-Conference on October 25. This will be followed by NALP and PSJD staff updates, lunch, and presentation of the Pro Bono Publico Award. In the afternoon, members will be able to select one of three timely and informative workshops to attend. This year the breakout workshops are:

- All in the Family: Public Interest Careers in Family Law
- It Takes a (Public Interest) Village: Building an On-campus Community among Public Interest Law Students
- Pro Bono Innovations & Sensations: A Review of Successful Law Student Pro Bono Models

Members will then have the opportunity to attend a plenary presented by Michelle Nash, entitled "Student Career Discernment & Self-Awareness Strategies: Understanding and Effectively Utilizing Assessment Tools to Facilitate Career Fulfillment." This will be a chance for members to learn about key assessment tools that will best serve our students' needs. Finally, members will be invited to a reception with legal recruiting professionals from a variety of federal agencies and non-profits.

10. Publications

Vice Chair: Samantha Z. Kasmarek, Syracuse University College of Law

The Publications work group has arranged for public interest-oriented articles in every NALP Bulletin this year. The Career Fair article that Sam Kasmarek wrote with Ginna Galbraith was published in the Equal Justice Works blog. It was reprinted with permission, but unbeknownst to the work group at <http://www.equaljusticeworks.org/news/blog/career-fair-tips>. Teresa Schmiedeler from the University of Maryland is writing an article that will be published in the Winter newsletter for the ABA Government and Public Sector Lawyers Division. In so doing, the work group met half of its goal of generating two external publications. Sam plans to have a meeting in the next few months to determine other article/publishing opportunities that might exist.

11. Public Service Employment Trends

Vice Chair: Philip A. Guzman, North Carolina Central University School of Law

The Public Interest Employment Trends survey is set to be launched near the end of October. The survey will be open for employer input for approximately three weeks with a closing day no later than the Thanksgiving period. The work group will review and analyze the findings in early/mid December. The survey results will be analyzed and a report will be prepared for anticipated publication in the February 2013 issue of the Bulletin. This delayed schedule will allow employers to more accurately review their own employment needs and projections and provide a realistic "snapshot" of past and upcoming years.

Environmental Scanning

Through the weekly PSJD Bulletin, Steve Grumm performs weekly environmental scanning of public service issues. Two issues that have received considerable attention during this quarter:

- A new report indicates that student loan debt for the undergraduate class of 2011 rose 5% from the previous year, a fact which might discourage entering law students from pursuing public interest careers.
(<http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2012/10/18/new-report-debt-and-class-2011>)
- The media has seemed to notice that recent changes to rules for the federal income-based repayment plan for student loans will benefit graduate students with high debt and high salaries because “high-debt borrowers may not have to repay all of their loans.”
(<http://www.insidehighered.com/quicktakes/2012/10/16/new-report-income-based-repayment>)