

## Memorandum

**To:** Jennifer Henfey, NALP Board Liaison, Public Service Section  
**Cc:** Fred Thrasher, NALP Deputy Director; Samuel Halpert, NALP Director of Public Service Initiatives  
**From:** Rochelle R. McCain, NALP Chair, Public Service Section (2019-2020)  
**Re:** NALP Public Service Section First Quarter Board Report  
**Date:** April 3, 2020

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This report contains updates on the activities of the NALP Public Service Section and its Work Groups for the fourth quarter. The 2019-2020 Public Service Section Work Groups and Vice-Chairs are:

LRAP/CCRAA Work Group:

- **Susan J. Curry**, Director of Public Interest Law and Policy, The University of Chicago Law School
- **Aoife Delargy Lowe**, Equal Justice Works

Mini-Conference Planning Work Group:

- **Claire Cusella**, Equal Justice Works
- **Kathryn Shelton**, Associate Director, Public Interest Center, Northwestern Pritzker School of Law

NALP Annual Education Conference and Webinar Planning Work Group:

- **Lillian E. Evans**, Deputy Director of Legal Recruiting and Deputy EEO Officer, New York City Law Department
- **Prof. Elyse Diamond**, Director, Public Interest Law Center and Environmental Law Programs Career Specialist & Adjunct Professor, Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University

Pro Bono Work Group:

- **Laura Burstein**, Director of Public Service and Academic Success, Faculty Supervisor, Government and Public Interest Externship Program, SMU Dedman School of Law
- **Jennifer Mencarini**, Director of Career Development, Elon University School of Law

PSJD Resources Development Work Group:

- **Mike Kwarcinski**, Assistant Director of Career Development, Michigan State University College of Law
- **Brent Page**, Program Manager, Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI)

Publications Work Group:

- **Brooke Meckler**, Equal Justice Works
- **Rachel Kronick Rothbart**, University of Southern California Gould School of Law

The fourth Public Service Section Quarterly Call was held on March 10th at 3pm Eastern. Regular work group updates were provided during the call. In addition to this call, NALP held a townhall on April 2<sup>nd</sup> to provide a forum for members to discuss impacts of the current pandemic and information share. The townhall was well attended by membership and expertly moderated by Samuel Halpert, with whom I

consulted as to the content and priorities for discussion as I was unable to co-lead in the moment due to personal conflicts with the selected date and time. The Public Service Section engaged in robust discussion regarding the emerging issues, challenges and opportunities presented. The Section is seeking out potential collaborative member resources that may be helpful in addressing emerging information gaps.

According to NALPConnect, the Public Service Section membership is currently at 303, an increase of five (5) members. Section members use NALPConnect 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 Sam Halpert, which has invaluable updates on hiring trends and other related public interest news. The NALPConnect platform continues to be used, and the Section is engaged and supportive on it.

## **WORK GROUP UPDATES**

### LRAP Work Group

Vice Chairs: Susan J. Curry, Director of Public Interest Law and Policy, The University of Chicago Law School and Aoife Delargy Lowe, Equal Justice Works

The Work Group did not hold its slated March 5<sup>th</sup> meeting due to scheduling conflicts but continues to monitor proposed changes to Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) and repayment plans. The Coalition to Preserve PSLF heard recent reports that suggest there were active conversations on the Senate side regarding the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act that could negatively affect PSLF. Members with direct contact to their senators or a key stakeholder who could speak directly with a senator on the Health, Education, Labor & Pensions (HELP) Committee regarding the preservation of the program were encouraged to contact Vice Chair Aoife Delargy Lowe.

The Work Group continues to discuss possible plans for LRAP programming and webinars during this term.

The remaining call schedule for the Work Group is as follows:

- June 2, 2020 at 3:00pm EST

### Mini-Conference Planning Work Group

Vice Chairs: Claire Cusella, Equal Justice Works and Kathryn Shelton, Associate Director, Public Interest Center, Northwestern Pritzker School of Law

Since the Public Service Mini-Conference on Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup> in Washington, D.C. at the National Association of Home Builders, the Vice Chairs have begun preliminary discussions on implementing new processes for future conference planning. On the most recent Section call, Vice Chair Kathryn Shelton highlighted the challenges in the current planning process and solicited ideas around programming as well as new volunteers to join the Work Group for the upcoming Mini-Conference.

In light of the cancellation of this year’s Annual Education Conference (AEC), the Work Group will be slating a meeting in the future to discuss whether to revisit the slate of programming submitted by the

Section for AEC to determine whether any of the concurrent session may be leveraged for Mini-Conference in October 2020.

#### NALP Annual Education Conference and Webinar Planning Work Group

Vice Chairs: Lillian E. Evans, Deputy Director of Legal Recruiting and Deputy EEO Officer, New York City Law Department and Lauren E. Seffel, Senior Law Career Counselor, Public Interest Advising and Programs, The George Washington University Law School

As previously noted, twelve (12) RFPs were submitted on behalf of the Public Service Section for the 2020 Annual Education Conference (AEC) in Montreal, Canada. Of those submitted, the below seven (7) were selected:

- Who's the Expert Here? Hitting the Reset Button on Peer Counseling
- Judicial Clerkships: A Strategic Stop on the Public Interest Career Path
- Carpe Diem: Public Interest Advising and Recruiting in an Age of Renewed Civic Engagement
- Cultivating Transferable Skillsets in Students Through Innovative Pro Bono Opportunities
- More Than Finding The Job: Building and Fostering A Culture of Public Interest and Service In Your Law School
- Preparing Students for Pro Bono & Public Service: A Plug & Play Curriculum
- The New Normal - PI/PS Hiring Under the New NALP Principles

In light of the cancellation of the AEC due to the current health crisis, initial discussions have begun regarding ways in which to potentially generate content for webinars or future conference programming.

#### Pro Bono Work Group

Vice Chairs: Laura Burstein, Director of Public Service and Academic Success, SMU Dedman School of Law, and Jennifer Mencarini, Director of Career Development, Elon University School of Law

The Work Group is continuing to accept responses for its survey gathering information about best practices to ensure compliance with ABA Standard 303 (b)(2), particularly for the benefit of law schools that do not have a full-time/dedicated pro bono coordinator/advisor. The information will hopefully be shared in a Bulletin Article as its presentation during the "Preparing Students for Pro Bono & Public Service: A Plug & Play Curriculum" session at the 2020 Annual Education Conference is no longer feasible.

The Work Group is still working on the preparation of pro bono public interest curriculum. The project would create specific resources and curriculum to provide a building block foundation for law schools to easily adapt and incorporate. The Work Group continues to assess the needs for pro bono students, specific skillset training, cultural competencies and impacts of secondary trauma.

The Work Group continues to monitor developments with state bars considering adopting pre-admission or licensure maintenance pro bono requirements as well as opportunities to collaborate with the AALS pro bono section though there has not been much new activity.

The remaining schedule for Work Group calls is as follows:

- May 7, 2020 at 3:00pm EST

PSJD Resources Work Group

Vice Chairs: Mike Kwarcinski, Assistant Director of Career Development, Michigan State University College of Law and Brent Page, Program Manager, Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI)

The Vice Chairs have made a great deal of progress coordinating with NALP’s Sam Halpert and PSJD Fellow, Brittany Valente, on the below:

- Create a spreadsheet of all the resources on PSJD and reviewing them to determine what needs to be updated or consolidated, and going forward, how often the resources should be reviewed.
- Evaluate the response of the Advisory Group to proposed topics compiled and submitted for its consideration during its January 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.
- Develop a long-term/sustainable plan for adding and revising content, including collating a list of a topic-area specialists and contacts, and a using a wiki.

Since these projects require significant effort, the Vice Chairs continue to prioritize the initiatives, but are hopeful thee priorities will build a strong foundation for easier resource updating in the future.

Publications Work Group

Vice Chairs: Brooke Meckler, Equal Justice Works and Rachel Kronick Rothbart, University of Southern California Gould School of Law

The Work Group has now successfully secured proposed articles for the NALP Bulletin through September. Each month, the Vice Chairs follow up individually with authors to finalize topics, deadlines, and publication dates once the proposal has been approved.

Below is the Section’s current article list:

<b>Proposed Publication Date</b>	<b>Tentative Topic</b>	<b>Author(s) Name</b>
April	Gender and Achievement Gap in Public Interest Careers	Lauren Hartley
May	Benefit of Judicial Clerkships on Public Interest Careers	Michele Hoff
June	Public Interest for First Generation Law Students	Malissa Barnwell-Scott and Eric Stern
July	Advising Students on Presenting Political Activity in Applications	Jana Matthews and April Giancola
August	The New Normal: PI/PS Hiring Under the New NALP Principles	Claire Cusella and Rochelle McCain

September

Employing Active Listening Skills When  
Counselling

Sharon Buckingham

Additionally, the Work Group is exploring ways to support Section members in writing for the PSJD Blog and other outlets, as appropriate.