

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Mike Ende, NALP Board Liaison, Public Service Section  
**Cc:** Fred Thrasher, NALP Deputy Director; Samuel Halpert, NALP Director of Public Service Initiatives  
**From:** Susan Curry (UChicago) & Lilli Evans (NYC Law Dept.), NALP Co-Chairs, Public Service Section (2020-21)  
**Re:** NALP Public Service Section Fourth Quarter Board Report  
**Date:** April 8, 2021

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This report contains updates on the activities of the NALP Public Service Section and its Work Groups for the Final quarter. The 2020-2021 Public Service Section Work Groups and Vice-Chairs are:

Environmental Scanning Work Group:

- **Sharon Buckingham**, Villanova
- **Moriah Allen**, William & Mary Law School

LRAP/CCRAA Work Group:

- **Jennifer Geller**, Oregon
- **Aoife Delargy Lowe**, Equal Justice Works

Member Relations Work Group:

- **Diane Fears**, Wayne State

Mini-Conference Planning Work Group:

- **Claire Cusella**, Equal Justice Works
- **Glory McLaughlin**, Alabama

NALP Annual Education Conference and Webinar Planning Work Group:

- **Elyse Diamond**, Pace
- **Sharon Buckingham**, Villanova

Pro Bono Work Group:

- **Laura Burstein**, SMU Dedman School of Law
- **Jennifer Mencarini**, Elon University School of Law

PSJD Resources Development Work Group:

- **Jocelyn Brennan Witzel**, St. Lois University
- **Brent Page**, Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI)

Publications Work Group:

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

On March 31<sup>st</sup> 2021, the Public Service Section held its final quarterly meeting on Zoom. Co-Chair Lilli Evans introduced Stephanie Ball from the NYCLU to give the Employer Profile report. This series of Employer Reports serves to help 1) featured employers gain additional exposure/awareness among NALP members, 2) career services representatives know more about the hiring practices of these organizations.

## **PUBLIC SERVICE EMPLOYER PROFILE**

Stephanie highlighted some of NYCLU's recent litigation including cases against police and corrections departments in the state. Stephanie also reviewed NYCLU's approach to remote work in 2020 and projections for 2021. Finally, she answered questions from members regarding summer and postgrad hiring going forward.

## **WORK GROUP UPDATES**

Next, Co-Chair Susan Curry thanked each Work Group Leader for their service this year and asked for the Work Groups to provide their reports:

### **NALP ANNUAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE AND WEBINAR PLANNING WORK GROUP**

The Section reviewed our current three sessions and identified several more that our section members will be offering at the Annual Conference:

- Judicial Clerkships: A Strategic Stop on the Public Interest Career Path [Susan Curry, Michele Hoff, Alison Kennedy]
- Our Virtual Reality – Public Interest/Public Service Hiring During and Post COVID-19 [Lillian Evans, Sara Malan, Claire Cusella]
- Virtual Public Interest Career Fairs – Standing out in the (Zoom) Spotlight [Lillian Evans, Samantha Kasmarek, Brooke Meckler]

Section members also highlighted other panels that are not designated as public service section panels, but may be of interest to the section, including:

- Beyond the Gender Binary in the Legal Profession [C.P. Hoffman of Freestate Justice, Caspian Nash of Beyond Binary Legal, Rafael Langer-Osuna of Squire Patton Boggs, Nicole Netkin-Collins of University of Colorado Law School, Melanie Rowen of Berkeley Law]
- Going Beyond Talk: Doing Antiracism Work on Campus [Kari Carew of Seyfarth Shaw, Nadine Mompremier of Columbia Law School, Swati Parikh of New York Law School, Devi Patel of Columbia Law School, Leah Terranova of University of Kansas School of Law]
- Supervising Law Students Virtually – Keys to Success [Alexi Freeman of Univ. of Denver Sturm College of Law, Karen Masciulli of Colorado Attorney General's Office, Brooke Meckler of Equal Justice Works]
- Student Debt in the Time of Covid-19 [Heather Jarvis of Student Loan Expert, Aoife Delargy Lowe of Equal Justice Works]

Section members were reminded that there will be a 4 p.m. EST gathering each day of the conference to host audience discussion of what was covered in the day's panels. These discussions are a good way for colleagues to talk through the issues raised in the panels and to have a little of the networking opportunities that they would have enjoyed at an in-person Annual Conference.

### **LRAP/CCRA WORK GROUP**

The LRAP Working Group submitted a lengthy report of its activities.

#### LRAPs

- Please find below a list of all the current law schools and state based LRAPS across the country. This is up to date as of March 2021 .

#### **School-Based LRAPs**

[ALBANY](#)  
[AMERICAN](#)

[BAYLOR](#)  
[BOSTON COLLEGE](#)

[BOSTON UNIVERSITY](#)  
[BROOKLYN](#)

[CALIFORNIA - Berkley](#)  
[CALIFORNIA - Davis](#)  
[CALIFORNIA - Hastings](#)  
[CALIFORNIA - Irvine](#)  
[CALIFORNIA - Los Angeles](#)  
[CALIFORNIA WESTERN](#)  
[CAPITAL](#)  
[CASE WESTERN RESERVE](#)  
[CHARLESTON](#)  
[CHICAGO](#)  
[CHICAGO-KENT](#)  
[CLEVELAND STATE](#)  
[COLORADO](#)  
[COLUMBIA](#)  
[CONCORDIA](#)  
[CORNELL](#)  
[CREIGHTON](#)  
[DENVER](#)  
[DePAUL](#)  
[DREXEL](#)  
[DUKE](#)  
[DUQUESNE](#)  
[ELON](#)  
[EMORY](#)  
[FORDHAM](#)  
[GEORGETOWN](#)  
[GEORGE WASHINGTON](#)  
[GEORGIA](#)  
[GOLDEN GATE](#)  
[GONZAGA](#)  
[HARVARD](#)  
[HOFSTRA](#)  
[ILLINOIS](#)  
[INDIANA UNIVERSITY](#)  
[UIC JOHN MARSHALL LAW SCHOOL](#)  
[LEWIS AND CLARK](#)  
[LOUISVILLE](#)  
[LOYOLA - Chicago](#)  
[LOYOLA - Los Angeles](#)  
[LOYOLA - New Orleans](#)

[MAINE](#)  
[MARQUETTE](#)  
[MARYLAND](#)  
[MCGEORGE](#)  
[MICHIGAN](#)  
[MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE](#)  
[NEW HAMPSHIRE](#)  
[NEW YORK UNIVERSITY](#)  
[NORTH CAROLINA](#)  
[NORTHEASTERN](#)  
[NORTHWESTERN](#)  
[NOTRE DAME](#)  
[OHIO STATE](#)  
[OREGON](#)  
[PENNSYLVANIA](#)  
[PENNSYLVANIA STATE-  
Dickinson Law](#)  
[PENNSYLVANIA STATE-Penn  
State Law](#)  
[PEPPERDINE](#)  
[PITTSBURGH](#)  
[QUINNIPIAC](#)  
[REGENT](#)  
[ROGER WILLIAMS](#)  
[RUTGERS](#)  
[ST. JOHNS](#)  
[ST. THOMAS \(Florida\)](#)  
[ST. THOMAS \(Minnesota\)](#)  
[SAN DIEGO](#)  
[SAN FRANCISCO](#)  
[SEATTLE](#)  
[SETON HALL](#)  
[SOUTH CAROLINA](#)  
[SOUTH TEXAS-HOUSTON](#)  
[SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY](#)  
[SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA](#)  
[STANFORD](#)  
[TEMPLE](#)  
[TENNESSEE](#)  
[TEXAS](#)  
[TOURO](#)

[TULANE](#)  
[UTAH](#)  
[VALPARAISO](#)  
[VANDERBILT](#)  
[VERMONT](#)  
[VILLANOVA](#)  
[VIRGINIA](#)  
[WAKE FOREST](#)  
[WASHINGTON AND LEE](#)  
[WASHINGTON](#)  
[WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY](#)  
[WIDENER-Delaware](#)  
[WIDENER-Commonwealth](#)  
[WILLIAM AND MARY](#)  
[WISCONSIN](#)  
[YALE](#)  
[YESHIVA](#)

**State-Based LRAPs**

[ARIZONA](#)  
[FLORIDA](#)  
[INDIANA](#)  
[KANSAS](#)  
[LOUISIANA](#)  
[MAINE](#)  
[MARYLAND](#)  
[MINNESOTA](#)  
[MONTANA](#)  
[NEBRASKA](#)  
[NEW HAMPSHIRE](#)  
[NEW MEXICO](#)  
[NEW YORK](#)  
[NORTH CAROLINA](#)  
[OHIO](#)  
[OREGON](#)  
[PENNSYLVANIA](#)  
[TEXAS](#)  
[VERMONT](#)  
[WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF  
COLUMBIA](#)

- Regarding Employer LRAPs: The provision of the CARES Act that expanded Section 127 of the Internal Revenue Code to cover employer contributions to student loan repayment on a tax-free basis was due to expire on Jan. 1, 2021. However, the provision has been extended for five more years, granting employers and employees tax advantages for student loan repayment assistance until Jan. 1, 2026. Specifically, the provision allows employers to contribute to employee student loan repayment without the employer contributions being taxed. Employers can contribute up to \$5,250 as a tax-deductible business expense, and employer contributions are excluded from employees' personal income tax responsibility.

## PSLF

- Earlier this year, President Biden directed that CARES Act protections for student borrowers be continued through at least **Sept. 30, 2021**. Unless Congress or the President take further action, payments resume.
- Don't forget there is a new form for Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF), Temporary Expanded PSLF (TEPSLF) certification and Application. This combines the employment certification form and the forgiveness application. Borrowers will only need to submit this one form to certify their employment or to be considered for forgiveness under PSLF or TEPSLF. You can see the form here: <https://studentaid.gov/sites/default/files/public-service-application-for-forgiveness.pdf>
- NEW RULE: Prepayments and lump-sum payments towards PSLF and TEPSLF can count as “qualifying” payments for up to 12 months or until the next time a borrower's income-driven repayment plan is due for certification, – whichever comes first.
- Check out this report conducted by AIG on PSLF: <https://www.lifeandretirement.aig.com/content/dam/aig/america-canada/us-lnr/documents/pdfs/pslf-executive-summary.pdf>
- Check out this new website **PSLFjobs** where you can find jobs that qualify for PSLF: <https://pslfjobs.com/>

## **ENVIRONMENTAL SCANNING WORK GROUP**

Work Group Co-Chair Moriah Allen plans to work the detailed report from the Section’s previous NALP Board Report into an article for the NALP Bulletin.

## **MEMBER RELATIONS WORK GROUP**

No Work Group report this quarter.

## **MINI-CONFERENCE PLANNING WORK GROUP**

No Work Group report this quarter.

## **PSJD RESOURCES WORK GROUP**

Co-Chair Brent Page reports that the process of evaluating and creating a system for updating the resources available on PSJD is still ongoing. We are using this time to assess the resources and categorize how often they should be updated. The overall effort is to better keep track of what materials we have and ensure that content is still relevant and valuable for students.

## **PUBLICATIONS WORK GROUP**

The Publications Work Group reports that –in addition to working with Moriah Allen to incorporate the findings of the Environmental Scanning Work Group into a Bulletin article– the Publications Work Group is scheduling time to talk with two more authors (Glory McGlaughlan and Lauren Worssek) for the last articles of the year.

## **PRO BONO WORK GROUP**

Sam and Brittany provided a brief update of the Pro Bono Work Group’s activities and then segued into the next section of the agenda, demonstrating for the group some new PSJD Volunteer Initiatives.

Sam began by outlining the data on the developing public service jobs picture with relevant comparative data from years past. In short, the overall size of the PSJD database is finally returning to the size we would expect, based on historic data. This return comes after a months-long trend of smaller-than-expected database sizes throughout the pandemic. However, when we looked closer at how the newly-enlarged database broke down between student,

post-graduate fellowship, and other postgraduate positions, it was clear that most of the database's recent growth has come from postgraduate jobs, while the number student positions present in the database, in particular have not yet returned to pre-pandemic levels. Meanwhile, Sam and Brittany are observing significantly *higher* numbers of 1Ls and 2Ls using PSJD than was typical, pre-pandemic. In short, more students than ever are job-hunting on PSJD, and PSJD has fewer student positions than it usually does to show them.

To an extent, this dearth of student positions is related to events out in the world. But in order to do as much as we can to find what positions are out there and get information about them into the hands of students, the Pro Bono Work Group is hoping to involve members of the section in outreach to employers to try and "catch" student pro bono positions before they expire from PSJD and renew them with more current information.

Sam and the Pro Bono Work Group have created a spreadsheet where section members can log in to see a list of remote pro bono student opportunities that are going to be expiring from PSJD within the next 30 days. A section member can express interest in reaching out to an employer to see if they are still recruiting volunteers for that opportunity. Once the member expresses interest, the sheet will display contact information (email addresses) for that employer so that the member can write to them asking about whether the volunteer opportunity is still relevant. If the employer writes back with new information, the section member can send the new details to [psjd@nalp.org](mailto:psjd@nalp.org) and Sam and Brittany will update the volunteer notice and keep the student position in the database longer.

There is a possibility that, next year, Public Service section members can assist PSJD with reviewing and approving both pro bono opportunities and expiring job opportunities on the platform using a similar strategy. Sam and Brittany will send more information in the coming months.

Then, the Section members turned to a general discussion of the upcoming AEC, with various members on the call highlighting AEC panels that they were leading or planning to attend.

To close the meeting, Susan and Lilli thanked Section Members for a wonderful year of service and called on members to attend as many AEC panels as possible.