

Memorandum

To: Michelle Jackson, NALP Board Liaison, Public Service Section

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

From: Katie Dilks, NALP Chair, Public Service Section (2016-2017)

Re: NALP Public Service Section Third Quarter Board Report

Date: February 2, 2017

This report contains updates on the activities of the NALP Public Service Section and its Work Groups for the third quarter. The 2016-2017 Public Service Section Work Groups and Vice-Chairs are:

- LRAP/CCRAA Work Group: Amanda Furst, Public Interest Director, University of Minnesota Law School
- Mini-Conference Planning Work Group: Rochelle McCain, Director of Public Interest and Government Relations, University of Pittsburgh School of Law
- NALP Conference RFP Work Group: Samantha Zappia Kasmarek, Associate Director for Career and Professional Development, Syracuse University College of Law and Swati Parikh, Director of Public Service Careers, New York Law School
- Pro Bono Work Group: Melissa Berry, Assistant Dean for Student & Career Services, University of Washington School of Law and Diane Fears, Director of Career Services, Wayne State University Law School
- PSJD Resources Website Work Group: Michael Bergmann, Executive Director, Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI) and Emily Kite, Associate Director Career Services, University of Wisconsin Law School
- Publications Work Group: Sarah Bookbinder, Associate Director for Public Interest Advising, Suffolk University Law School

The third Public Service Section Quarterly Call was held on January 24 at 3:00pm EDT, and was attended by approximately 15 people.

According to NALP Connect, the Public Service Section membership is currently at 286. 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. The new NALP Connect platform is being used fairly robustly, and the Section is engaged and supportive on it. It has been particularly helpful the past week or two to share timely updates on the roll-out and impact of the federal hiring freeze. Christina has been regularly supplying updates, and other members are sharing information as they speak with their agency connections.

WORK GROUP UPDATES

NALP Conference RFP Work Group

Vice-chairs: Samantha Zappia Kasmarek, Associate Director for Career and Professional Development, Syracuse University College of Law and Swati Parikh, Director of Public Service Careers, New York Law School

As shared in the last report, the Annual Education Conference RFP Work Group helped coordinate 13 RFPs on behalf of the Public Service Section, including programs in collaboration with the Clerkship Section, the Law Student Professional Development Section, and the Diversity/Inclusion Section. 9 of those RFPs were selected for Conference, listed below:

- Advising Public Service Grads from Pre-bar Passage to Life Transitions
- Answering Difficult Questions In Public Interest Interviews
- Counselor, Activist, Advocate – What is the Role of Career Services Offices During Campus Protests?
- Law, Life & the Pursuit of Happiness: Prescriptions for Student and Lawyer Well-Being
- Mission Not Impossible: Navigating Federal Government Legal Hiring from Application to Clearance
- Through the Side Door: Entry into Government Service through Alternative Avenues
- The Art of Writing Successful Public Interest Fellowship Applications
- Mining for Gold: How to Find Hidden Clerkship Opportunities in California (co-submitted with Clerkships)
- Promoting Careers in Prosecution to People of Color: A Discussion of the How's, Why's, and Implications of Diversity & Inclusion in Prosecutors' Offices (co-submitted with Diversity and Inclusion)

Sam and Swati have also been helpful in reminding Section members who are leading programs on relevant deadlines (in addition to the reminder emails from NALP staff).

Publications Work Group

Vice-chairs: Sarah Bookbinder, Associate Director for Public Interest Advising, Suffolk University Law School

Diane Cross had to step down as one of the vice chairs for the Publications Work Group as she shifted careers, but Sarah Bookbinder remains in a strong leadership role. The Publications Work Group is in the midst of a full slate of articles for the NALP Bulletin for the year:

Samantha Kasmarek, Miriam Ingber	Public Interest Jobs in the Private Sector: Part I	September
Laura Torchio, Katie Shelton	The Public Interest Auction: Is it still an effective fundraising tool?	October
Jaya Saxena, Rochelle McCain, Katie Dilks	Continuing the Conversation on Diversity in Public Interest Law	November
Carolyn Goodwin, Laren Spierer	Lessons from NY pro bono requirement as CA prepares to implement the same	December

Teresa Schmiedeler and Dina Billian	Professionalism & Civility in Legal Profession and what public sector and private sector might learn from each other in addressing importance of professionalism and civility in work cultures	January
Elyse Diamond Moskowitz	Creative ways to collaborate with faculty and student groups to build a successful public interest program/community	February
Sam Kasmarek and Miriam Ingber	Public Interest Jobs in the Private Sector: Part II	March
Katie Dilks	TBD	April
Sarah Bookbinder	Trends in Americorps programs for 2017 grads	May
Oscar Teran	Trends in Pro Bono Programs – changes/best practices as a result of state pro bono requirements (maybe different?)	June
Lindsey McCaslin	TBD	July
Rochelle McCain	TBD	August

The Work Group successfully found authors for the June, July, and August Bulletin issues, with Oscar Teran taking over for Diane Cross on pro bono topics, and Lindsey McCaslin and Rochelle McCain volunteering for the summer months. Those topics will be generated out of the Section meeting at Annual Conference in April. Additionally, the Publications Group is working to support Section members in writing for the PSJD Blog and other outlets, as appropriate, particularly for a series on helpful resources. Publications and Pro Bono have partnered to help highlight pro bono projects for the PSJD Weekly News Roundup.

LRAP Work Group

Vice-chair Amanda Furst, Public Interest Director, University of Minnesota Law School

The LRAP Work Group held their third conference call on January 10th and continues to make great strides on the goals established over the summer. They have identified schools without LRAP programs and are now actively working with Equal Justice Works to develop a webinar on best practices to build an LRAP. They are also working to update the Student Debt resources on PSJD to ensure that all helpful resources are conveniently listed together. Finally, they are continuing to work closely with our contacts at EJW to stay on top of any potential changes to Public Service Loan Forgiveness, particularly as information comes out from the new administration. The last call allowed the group to offer feedback to EJW on a potential alternative proposal to PSLF they and the ABA are working on, which could be an important effort in Congress this year.

Pro Bono Work Group

Vice-chairs: Melissa Berry, Director, Graduate Program and Alumni Coaching, University of Washington School of Law and Diane Fears, Director of Career Services, Wayne State University Law School

The Pro Bono Work Group is holding their third call on February 6 to continue the efforts they established for the year. On the last call in October, the vice-chairs reminded the Work Group of their vision for the group to provide a space to share ideas and resources to advance pro bono efforts. The Co-Chairs have built on that vision by joining the AALS Pro Bono Collaboration Group, which was identified by member Carolyn Goodwin (Boston University), who recommended that group members consider becoming members of the AALS Section on Pro Bono and Public Service Initiatives, a privilege extended to faculty and staff of AALS member law schools. Diane participated in an AALS Pro Bono Collaboration Group call on November 7, 2016. The Work Group is partnering with AALS Collaboration Group to make the resources on PSJD more robust and to add to the pro bono resources, such as the creation of issue-oriented best practices guides, which will be discussed on the next Work Group call. Members were also encouraged to contact Christina Jackson to contribute to the PSJD Blog.

PSJD Resources Work Group

Vice-chairs: Michael Bergmann, Executive Director, Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI) and Emily Kite, Associate Director Career Services, University of Wisconsin Law School

The PSJD Resources Work Group continued to build on their work last year when they created a Summer Funding Primer and a Summer Funding Sources and Paid Internships chart, both of which are now available in the PSJD Resource Center, and a new Criminal Law Practice Area Guide, available in the Public Sector Careers Paths section on PSJD. They have now added a new Practice Area Guide on Native Peoples Law and are working on one for Water Law, which should be completed soon, and are developing additional resources on JAG/Military Law and policy work. Additionally they are actively soliciting resources on self-assessment and informational interviewing/networking. The PSJD Resource Center is a valuable resource for many of our members, creating efficiency and information-sharing.

Mini-Conference Planning Work Group

Vice-chair Rochelle McCain, Director of Public Interest and Government Relations, University of Pittsburgh School of Law

The Public Service Mini-Conference was held on Thursday, October 27th, the day before the Equal Justice Works Conference and Career Fair, in Washington, DC and was a rousing success. Over 100 people attended, and the conference featured a keynote speech from Deborah Vagins of the EEOC on diversity in public interest law, and how schools and employers can seek to support and increase diversity efforts. There were also 4 interactive breakout sessions:

1. Professional Development Hot Topics for Public Service Counselors and Employers
2. Building Practice-Ready Graduates: Creating and Counseling Students Towards Pro Bono and Externship Programs
3. Creating Jobs Out of the Mist: Envisioning, Building, and Funding Postgraduate Fellowships
4. Challenge: Counseling New Graduates and Recent Alumni

The Mini-Conference once again offered Public Interest Advising 101 – an overview of public interest counseling for members who are new to the profession, attended by approximately 20 people. This was followed by a “round robin” dinner, which brought together 30+ NALP members for a casual networking opportunity over dinner at three area restaurants.

Christina, Rochelle, and the work group solicited evaluations of the Conference afterwards, and will review those evaluations to continue to refine and improve the program for next year.