

MEMORANDUM

To: Rashida West, NALP Board Liaison, Public Service Section
From: Chelsea-Leigh Flucus and Elizabeth Dunn, Public Service Section Co-Chairs
cc: NALP Office-Fred Thrasher (reports@nalp.org)
Date: January 30, 2024
Re: Public Service Section – Third Quarter Report

A. 2024-25 Public Service Section Leadership

Section Chairs	Chelsea-Leigh Flucus, St. John’s University School of Law, flucushc@stjohns.edu Elizabeth E. Dunn, Thomas R. Kline School of Law Drexel University eed45@drexel.edu
Annual Education Conference + Webinar Planning	Deborah K. Baker, Esq. Howard University School of Law deborah.baker@law.howard.edu Aoife Delargy Lowe Equal Justice Works adelargy@equaljusticeworks.org
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B. SECOND QUARTER SECTION MEETING

This has been a busy and successful quarter for the Public Interest Section. With two webinars over the past three months, six successful AEC proposals and a two-day Public Service Conference in the works the Committee has been active and engaged.

The third quarterly meeting of the year took place on Wednesday, January 15th, 2024 at 11:00am PST, under the leadership of Co-Chairs Chelsea-Leigh Flucus and Elizabeth Dunn. The meeting began with an Employer Spotlight featuring Daniel Atkins from Community Legal Aid Society, Inc. in Delaware (CLASI). Dan spoke to new initiatives developing in Delaware that are generating additional hiring at CLASI. In addition, Dan noted recruitment challenges that CLASI has faced in the past as an organization hiring in a small state with a challenging bar exam. Dan outlined bar support and other perks that CLASI has developed within their hiring in order to attract talent. A full outline of Dan's comments and minutes from the meeting are available on NALP connect.

C. PSS WORK GROUP UPDATES

a. Annual Education Conference + Webinar Planning

i. Webinars

In 2025, the Section plans to offer frequent webinars throughout the year, rather than one large conference in December. These webinars will focus on issues relevant to both public service school side advisors, as well as public service employers. As an example, a webinar focused on unions in public service is being planned for late February or early March.

On Monday, January 27th the Section launched a weekly Public Interest Huddle to help members navigate the recent changes resulting from executive orders. The first Huddle had 165 participants and got excellent feedback from members in attendance. From the conversation, Sam has created a document that the Section can utilize to share updates and address common questions.

ii. AEC

Six of the nine proposals submitted with the endorsement of the Public Service Section have been selected for AEC.

1. **Mission Possible: Public Service Careers in Military Law**
2. **Hot Topics in Public Interest Recruiting**
3. **Opening Doors: Enhancing Access to Post-Grad Public Interest Fellowships**
4. **Paid Public Service Internships: Who Foots the Bill and Why it Matters**
5. **Finding Your Own Path to Impactful Advocacy: Supporting Students Through the Exciting (and Sometimes Daunting) Public Service Search**
6. **The Uncertainty Is the Only Sure Thing: Public Service Attorney Recruiting Trends & Best Practices**

iii. Annual Public Interest Conference – Dec 10th and 11th

The Annual Public Interest Conference in December had a good turnout and resulted in engaged conversations. The remote conference ran over two half days to enable people to participate regardless of time zone. We had 57 registrants for Day 1 of the conference with 41 people attending the session on Summer Funding and 17 attending the State Courts information session. On Day 2 of the conference, we had 61 participants with 26 people attending the Rural Pipelines session and 36 attending the Recruiting Challenges in Criminal Justice session. In addition to the breakout session, there was a PSJD update and an overview of Loan Forgiveness, as well as some open spots for connection.

Coordinating this full day (broken into two half days) conference is a big undertaking for the WG. This year, the work group plans to focus on webinars throughout the year, rather than one large conference.

b. PSJD Resource Development

The PSJD Resource Development Workgroup is reviewing their goals for the upcoming 2025 academic year and will provide the section with an update before our next meeting.

c. LRAP Initiatives/CCRAA Developments

Amanda attended the October 2nd quarterly meeting and was able to highlight recent developments, including:

- The new income-driven repayment plan, SAVE, has been put on hold by an 8th Circuit order
- SAVE borrowers are in a forbearance that doesn't count for PSLF
- IDR processing is completely on hold
- PSLF processing is now handled by Federal Student Aid, not MOHELA
- Fresh start & the on-ramp (pandemic-era programs) are now over. That means borrowers must make payments to avoid delinquency and default, and must follow the normal channels to resolve default status
- As a result of all this, 2024 graduates seeking PSLF may be confused about how to enroll in an affordable repayment plan. Schools with LRAP programs will probably have lower enrollment while many borrowers are in forbearance. And SAVE would have saved LRAP programs money, but it's looking like it'll be overturned.

The LRAP work group will continue to monitor federal, state, and industry updates regarding student loan repayment and forgiveness and share relevant news with the section.

d. Pro Bono

The Vice Chairs of the Pro Bono Workgroup are currently in the process of recruiting interested working group members and setting forth a finalized plan for the upcoming 2024-2025 academic year. They are also exploring potential collaborations with the American Bar Association and AALS Section on Pro Bono & Access to Justice.

e. Publications

Jamie Reisman working with Cindy Stevens have slated the following authors for the 2024-2025 year.

- November 2024 issue: Liz Dunn
- December 2024 issue: Brooke Meckler
- March 2025 issue: Steve Grumm
- April 2025 issue: Deborah Baker and Jamie Reisman
- May 2025 issue: Leah Gould
- June 2025 issue: Kala Mueller
- July/August 2024 issue: Jennifer Geller

f. Well-Being Champion

Chelsea-Leigh is coordinating with Teresa Schmiedeler to incorporate wellness at the Public Interest Conference in December.

g. Employer Relations

In October the Employer Relations Work Group held a webinar Public Interest Recruiting 101: Best Practices for Recruiting Today's Law Students. The session had 120 registrants for the 1-hour program; about 70 attendees on average through the hour. Lots of interest from new employers and ideas for programming and next steps are with the WG.

D. PS 101

In August, the WG held a Public Service Advising 101 webinar featuring, Sam Halpert (NALP); Leah Gould (Northwestern) and Brooke Meckler (EJW) providing an overview of tools and timelines to help support new advisors. The session had over 100 registrants.

E. 2024-25 SECTION MEETINGS

The next section meeting is listed below and will use the Zoom link [HERE](#):

- Wednesday, March 5th, 2025 at 11:00am PST