

MEMORANDUM

To: Rashida West, NALP Board Liaison, Public Service Section
From: Jasminder Deol and Jana Matthews, Public Service Section Co-Chairs
cc: NALP Office (info@nalp.org)
Date: June 27, 2023
Re: Public Service Section – First Quarter Report

I. 2023-24 Public Service Section Leadership

Section Chairs	Jasminder Deol University of California, Irvine School of Law jdeol@law.uci.edu Jana Matthews Seattle University School of Law jmatthews1@seattleu.edu
Annual Education Conference + Webinar Planning	Glory McLaughlin University of Alabama gmclaughlin@law.ua.edu Maria Stein Penn State Law mks7037@psu.edu
PSJD Resource Development Work Group	Chelsea-Leigh Flucus University of California, Irvine School of Law cflucus@law.uci.edu Lindsay Slaker University of Wisconsin Law School lslaker@wisc.edu
LRAP Initiatives/CCRAA Developments	Amanda Prasuhn Berkeley Law aprasuhn@berkeley.edu Jennifer Geller University of Oregon School of Law jgeller@uoregon.edu Maria Stein Penn State Law mks7037@psu.edu

Pro Bono Work Group	Elizabeth Boe DePaul University College of Law eboe@depaul.edu Megan Lovett University of Pittsburgh School of Law mel182@pitt.edu
Publications	Jamie Reisman University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School jreisman@law.upenn.edu
DEI Liaison	Carmia Caesar George Washington University Law School ccaesar@law.gwu.edu
Well-Being Champion	Teresa Schmiedeler University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law tschmiedeler@law.umaryland.edu
Employer Relations	TBD

II. FIRST QUARTER SECTION MEETING

The first quarterly meeting for the 2023-34 year took place on June 21, 2023, under the leadership of Co-Chairs Jasminder Deol and Jana Matthews. Thirty members were in attendance, including Public Service Section (PSS) Board Liaison Rashida West.

Prior to this meeting, the section held a meeting during AEC in Vancouver and another meeting on May 1, 2023, for those members who did not attend the conference.

The meeting began with updates from section work groups (detailed below), including a discussion on recent section wide emails asking for advice on communicating about the return to repayment for student loans with alumni.

The section then hosted [Immigrant Justice Corps](#) for an employer spotlight. In attendance were Jojo Annobil, Executive Director, Christa Stewart, Deputy Director, and Becca Vogt, Recruitment Manager. The PowerPoint presentation prepared by IJC is now available in the PSJD Collaborative Files.

The section also discussed planning PS 101 and agreed it should be held the week of August 7.

The section meeting closed with a discussion of our New Employer Relations Workgroup. Of note was a comment by an employer who attended AEC for the first time that more should be done to publicize the opportunities and programming at AEC to public interest employers.

III. PSS WORK GROUP UPDATES

a. Annual Education Conference + Webinar Planning

Six proposals were submitted with the endorsement of the Public Service Section for 2024 AEC.

1. Lost at OCI: Confronting Public Interest Drift Among Law Students
2. Public Interest Fellowships: Tips for Applicants & Host Organizations
3. Put Your Oxygen Mask on First! Countering Compassion Fatigue and Building Resilience for Student and Public Interest Attorneys with Wellness and Self-Care
4. Successful Summer Programs (on a budget!)
5. Update on Public Service Loan Forgiveness
6. Beyond Clerkships: Finding “Real Jobs” in the Judiciary

On June 7, 2023, Section Co-Chairs provided Meaghan Hagner with feedback on prioritizing these proposals.

b. PSJD Resource Development

The goal of the PSJD Resource Development Work Group this year is to make updates to the resources center: <https://www.psjd.org/advice>, focusing on those updates which should be made quickly for students. Chelsea-Leigh has identified the sections she would like to prioritize and will next meet with Lindsay. The Vice-Chairs will then consult with Sam, prior to conferring with the Section Co-Chairs and requesting additional feedback from section members.

c. LRAP Initiatives/CCRAA Developments

Public Service Section members regularly use NALP Connect to discuss developing issues related to LRAP. Most recently section members engaged in a discussion related to fundraising for summer stipends and communicating changes regarding loan repayment to alumni. The Vice Chairs of the Work Group were active in these discussions and shared a toolkit and sample email with section members.

d. Pro Bono

The Vice Chairs of the Pro Bono Work Group are currently planning for this year and will schedule a meeting to confer with section members in July. The Work Group’s

goals are to enhance collaboration with other organizations (AALS) and to find ways to work with the ABA.

e. Publications

On June 15, 2023, the PSS submitted 5 proposals for the NALP Bulletin.

Articles & Columns Topics

1. LRAP/Loan Repayment – best practices for counseling public interest law students and graduates about loan repayment and PSLF
2. Sharing the benefits of Public Service Section membership and PSJD collaborative files and other resources, with a review of PS 101.
3. Recap of the new Employer Relations Work Group – goals, progress and the importance of including public interest employers in NALP
4. Counseling students when confronted with challenging public sector employer hiring practices or behavior

Features Topics

1. Many Hats of Public Service Counselor and Public Interest Externship Faculty – Stories on the Front Lines

f. DEI Liaison

On June 5, 2023, Section Co-Chairs were notified that Carmia Caesar is our DEI Steering Committee Liaison. This information was provided to section members during the First Quarter Meeting.

g. Well-Being Champion

Teresa attended the Well-Being Steering Committee meeting on June 12, 2023, on behalf of the Section and volunteered to write an article in Spring 2024 focusing on tips and insights for wellness and work-life balance in the public sector. The article will have a focus from the employer, student, and new-graduate perspective. Teresa also proposed suggestions for well-being activities for our next section meeting.

h. Employer Relations

On May 15, 2023, Section Co-Chairs submitted a request to create a new Employer Relations Work Group, which was later approved by the NALP Board. The proposed goals for the year are to (1) assess ways to increase public interest employer participation in NALP, (2) identify gaps that can be filled to ensure ongoing participation by public interest employers, and (3) to develop best practices documents for public interest employers on issues related to hiring. To meet these goals, we proposed meeting the following target deadlines:

- Summer/Early Fall 2023: (1) Finalize topics for best practice handouts; (2) Draft proposal for NALP to increase public interest employer membership.

- January 2024: Develop documents to distribute in advance of regional public interest career fairs.
- Spring 2024: Finalize plan to address employer membership with identified steps to take to meet the needs of public interest employer members.

During the June 21, 2023 Section Meeting, Section Co-Chairs facilitated initial discussions about the goals of this Work Group, resulting in a suggestion to create a one-sheet listing the benefits of being a section member. Moving forward, Co-Chairs will share additional information about this Work Group via NALP Connect to solicit volunteers and ideas.

On June 22, 2023, Jasminder emailed Kate Eklund who is serving as a member of the Annual Education Conference Planning Committee to forward the comment from the First Quarter Meeting that more can be done to advertise the opportunities presented at the conference to public interest employers.

IV. PS 101

PSS members have decided to host PS 101 during the week of August 7, 2023, with no changes to the agenda from last year. Three of last year's presenters, Rachel Kronick-Rothbart, Chelsea-Leigh Flucus, and Brook Meckler have already confirmed they are available. Another section member has also indicated an interest in being involved. Once the date and other logistics are finalized, the section will coordinate with Sam and other NALP staff.

V. 2023-24 SECTION MEETINGS

All scheduled meetings have the same Zoom link:

<https://uci.zoom.us/j/97694623135?pwd=S3BidURNdVhpMnFXVis3cmk5ZytIQT09>

Future meeting dates are:

- October 11, 2023; 11am PST
- January 24, 2024; 11am PST
- March 20, 2024; 11am PST