

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: March 20, 2025
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
PSJD Resource Development Work Group	Lindsay Slaker University of Wisconsin Law School lslaker@wisc.edu
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Publications	Jamie Reisman University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School jreisman@law.upenn.edu
DEI Liaison	TBD
Well-Being Champion	Teresa Schmiedeler University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law tschmiedeler@law.umaryland.edu
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B. FOURTH QUARTER SECTION MEETING

We began the meeting by reminding everyone about AEC in Ohio and sharing registration information and tips for first time attendees. With all the changes happening in the public sector this is a good time to gather with other legal employers and law schools and share experience and knowledge.

Following the conversation about AEC, we discussed recent changes in public sector hiring and discussed models for supporting and partnering with alumni. We also discussed recent changes in the law around DEI programming and how that impacted guiding and advising students. Based on input from the section, we see a need for a smaller group of members to create resources designed to advise students/recent alum who have lost a federal opportunity as they navigate outreach and interviewing. We closed the meeting with a wellness exercise.

C. PSS WORK GROUP UPDATES

a. Annual Education Conference + Webinar Planning

i. 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**

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

The Annual Public Interest Conference was well attended with engaged participation in break out sessions.

Coordinating this full day (broken into two half days) conference is a big undertaking for the WG. This year, the work group relied on RFPs that were strong, but not selected for EAC as a base for several of the sessions. Looking ahead, if the timeline for EAC RFPs changes that may increase the level of outreach work required by a work group. It is worth considering if offering several webinars throughout the year may be a more sustainable model.

b. PSJD Resource Development

The PSJD Resource Development Workgroup met on March 14th. Sam provided the group with an update regarding site clean-up and resource management. We discussed ways to increase school contributions to job postings and how to supplement resources given recent and upcoming changes to the public service job market.

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

No update.

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. Public Interest Section Huddle

Beginning in January, the Public Interest Section hosts a Public Interest "Huddle", an open hour on Monday's at 1:00 pm. These sessions led by Sam Halpert are an opportunity to share market developments, experiences and information. The sessions are well attended with over one hundred individuals attending the first session and twenty or more members at every session.

F. 2024-25 SECTION MEETINGS

The next section meetings will be set by Sam and the new Co-Chairs.