

MEMORANDUM

To: Nicole Netkin-Collins, NALP Board Liaison, Public Service Section
From: Christopher Gerlica and Amy Hsieh, Public Service Section Co-Chairs
CC: NALP Office-Fred Thrasher (reports@nalp.org)
Date: March 26, 2026

Re: Public Service Section – Fourth Quarter Report

1. 2025-26 Public Service Section Leadership

Section Chairs	Christopher Gerlica, Roger Williams University School of Law, cgerlica@rwu.edu Amy Hsieh, Brooklyn Law School, amy.hsieh@brooklaw.edu
Annual Education Conference + Webinar Planning	Deborah K. Baker, Esq. Howard University School of Law, deborah.baker@law.howard.edu Rachel Kronick Rothbart, USC Gould School of Law, rrothbart@law.usc.edu
PSJD Resource Development Work Group	Marisa Gold, Brooklyn Law School, Marisa.Gold@brooklaw.edu Erin Kelly, George Washington University School of Law, erin.kelly1@law.gwu.edu
LRAP Initiatives/CCRAA Developments	Vacant
Career Fairs Work Group	Mary Murphy, University of Texas School of Law, mary.murphy@law.utexas.edu Seth Mills, New York Law School, seth.mills@nyls.edu
Public Interest Fellowship Developments	Lauren Hartley, Equal Justice Works, lhartley@equaljusticeworks.org Jennie Netburn, Georgetown Law, jrn35@law.georgetown.edu
DEI Liaison	Carmia Caesar, George Washington University School of Law, ccaesar@law.gwu.edu
Amelioration and Best Practices Guide	Christopher Gerlica, Roger Williams University School of Law, cgerlica@rwu.edu

1. FOURTH QUARTER SECTION MEETING

The fourth quarterly section meeting was held on March 11, 2026, under the leadership of Co-Chairs Christopher Gerlica and Amy Hsieh. Over 25 members attended.

The meeting began with a spotlight on the National District Attorney Association (NDAA). The organization informed the section about their work in assisting various district attorney offices nationwide in hiring. They shared many resources that were also sent out to the

section through NALPConnect. We also learned about their annual career fair in Washington, DC. The section is thankful for their time and letting us know about new opportunities for students and graduates.

After the NDAA, Work Groups updated us regarding their progress on plans for the year.

2. PSS WORK GROUP UPDATE

a. Fellowship Work Group

The group held a meeting on March 19, 2026 and was attended by 8 work group members.

The meeting started with updates about the Skadden Fellowships based on conversations with Charlie Gillig, the new executive director. This year, Skadden funded 32 fellowships and plan to fund at least 34 next year. Eligibility will be extended to applicants graduating in the last two years, even if not coming from a clerkship.

Lauren Hartley shared that Equal Justice Works is still working through applications and are hoping to get to 60 fellows, which is a slightly lower number from last year. The tentative date for announcement of all EJW Fellowship is Tuesday May 13th.

The group had a broader discussion of the Class of 2027. They experience challenges in getting accurate information in a changing hiring context in general. Early hiring for private sector is putting pressure on public interest careers. In terms of salaries, the private sector/public interest gap is discouraging and the new summer bonuses are increasingly challenging. Some noted that many 1Ls don't even qualify for law schools' public interest summer stipends anymore because summer bonuses from law firms eliminate eligibility.

The group also prepared questions to be discussed during the NALP AEC session hosted by Jennie Netburn, Lauren Hartley, and Charlie Gillig on Fellowships.

The group concluded with a discussion on next steps for resource development for the next fellowship recruitment cycle. They will continue to work with Sam Halpert to develop a fellowship chart update for PSJD over the summer months. They also discussed ways to present fellowship information more effectively on PSJD.

b. Annual Education Conference + Webinar Planning

Sam Halpert shared a resource that highlights all the sessions relevant to PSS members: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Hs1BqoqaERpxS_0mMAc6vRbaICK-JcQrJvQiNkNb1Lw/preview?tab=t.0#heading=h.qptn96j9ejui

c. PSJD Resource Development

The PSJD Resource Development Work group were not able to meet this past quarter but will be regrouping to focus on high priority areas.

d. LRAP Initiatives/CCRAA Developments

This work group has not been able to meet as intended this year. The PSS chairs have continued to promote the following resources for folks interested in this topic:

- PSLF Coalition - <https://pslfcoalition.org/>
- AccessLex Financial Education - [https://www.accesslex.org/education-and-financial-capability?areas_of_focus_tools\[18\]=18&f=1](https://www.accesslex.org/education-and-financial-capability?areas_of_focus_tools[18]=18&f=1)

During the March 11th meeting, Brooke Meckler shared an update regarding the status of the SAVE plan, which is being phased out and time spent under SAVE administrative forbearance does not count towards the 120 payments needed for Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF). Borrowers are encouraged to switch to an alternative Income Driven Repayment (IDR) Plan to continue making progress towards PSLF.

e. Career Fairs Work Group

This groups is working on a process to keep the calendar on PSJD up to date as an ongoing task for the section. Additionally, they are working on identifying the key pieces of information the section would want to display to people on PSJD's forward-facing calendar.

f. DEI Liaison

No report from the DEI Liaison.

g. Well-Being Champion

At this point, no one has volunteered.

3. New Amelioration Best Practices Guide Charge

Since our last report, we have interviewed some NALP PSS members to better understand if and how schools are adopting or using amelioration language. So far, it sounds like schools have either used their old language or have not used any amelioration language because of a lack of pressure by students and a sense of being overwhelmed by the current political climate.

4. Public Interest Section Huddle

Public Interest “Huddles” have continued to meet on an approximately bi-weekly Monday’s at 1:00 pm, excluding the weeks when a section meeting was held. These sessions, led by Sam Halpert, offer an opportunity to share market developments, experiences and information. The sessions continue to be attended by twenty or more members at every session.

5. 2025-26 SECTION MEETINGS

The section will also meet during AEC2026 on April 15, 2026 (Weds), 11:45AM – 1:00PM, which will follow the Hot Topics in Public Service session.