

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: October 17, 2024

Re: Public Service Section – Second 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
PSJD Resource Development Work Group	Lindsay Slaker University of Wisconsin Law School lslaker@wisc.edu
LRAP Initiatives/CCRAA Developments	Amanda Prasuhn Berkeley Law aprasuhn@berkeley.edu
Pro Bono Work Group	Elizabeth Boe DePaul University College of Law eboe@depaul.edu Rachel Lawrence University of America, Columbus School of Law lawrencera@cua.edu
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
Employer Relations	Lillian Evans New York City Law Department Lillian.evans@usdoj.gov Amy Hsieh Brooklyn Law School amy.hsieh@brooklaw.edu Lauren Dubin Georgetown University Law Center dubin@law.georgetown.edu Amanda Doroshow Acacia Justice Center adoroshow@acaciajustice.org

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 second quarterly meeting for the 2024-25 year took place on Wednesday, October 2nd, under the leadership of Co-Chairs Chelsea-Leigh Flucus and Elizabeth Dunn. The meeting began with an Employer Spotlight featuring Mike Romney from Riverside County DA in CA. Mike gave an overview of Riverside County, an area as large as NJ and then spoke to the nature of the office as a balanced and proportional prosecution model. He highlighted that this is a county without any ABA accredited law school in its borders, despite its large size. The office has a focus on collaborative courts and prevention work and as a county leading the country in fentanyl prosecutions – the office is also one of the toughest on serious crimes. Mike highlighted some of the benefits of working in their office including paid opportunities for 2L summer, bar support, post-bar training and a reasonable salary with consistent increases. A full outline of Mike’s comments and minutes from the meeting are available on NALP connect.

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 Webinar Planning Work Group is also in the process of planning the two-day remote Public Interest Conference which will take place on Dec. 10th and 11th. There is a strong slate of speakers and the WG has been intentional to include speakers who will appeal to law school advisors and public interest employers alike.

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 is reviewing their goals for the upcoming 2024-2025 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 meetings are listed below and will use the Zoom link [HERE](#):

- Wednesday, January 15th, 2024 at 11:00am PST
- Wednesday, March 5th, 2025 at 11:00am PST