

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: October 13, 2025

Re: Public Service Section – Second 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, rrthbart@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	Emily Powers, Northwestern University School of Law, emily.powers@law.northwestern.edu
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
Fellowships Work Group	Jennie Netburn Lauren Hartley
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. SECOND QUARTER SECTION MEETING

The second quarterly section meeting was held on October 1, 2025, under the leadership of Co-Chairs Christopher Gerlica and Amy Hsieh. Over 30 members attended.

The meeting began with Work Groups updates regarding their progress on plans for the year. Additionally, the Co-chairs asked for volunteers to support the LRAP Initiatives/CCRAA Developments and the Amelioration and Best Practices guide. Finally, we discussed some issues law schools were seeing with public interest employer communication during hiring.

2. PSS WORK GROUP UPDATE

a. Fellowship Work Group

On July 17, 2025, NALP and the Fellowship Work Group worked together to host a conversation with Susan Plum, Interim Executive Director of the Skadden Foundation. This event was attended by approximately 102 participants. Feedback has been positive and spurred conversation in other section spaces. Since then, Charlie Gillig has been named the new Executive Director of the Skadden Foundation. The Fellowship Work Group aims to connect with Skadden to discuss how this year's cycle went.

The Fellowship Work Group also hosted a meeting on September 20, 2025, attended by ~10 members. The focus of the discussion was on the past Skadden and EJW cycle. Anecdotally, a reduction in interest in Skadden fellowship was not observed.

The Fellowship Work Group did not discuss other fellowships during the meeting (e.g., Echoing Green, Soros, etc.), but Georgetown University Law Center is looking into whether they can share a spreadsheet that covers a variety of fellowship opportunities.

b. Annual Education Conference + Webinar Planning

On August 18, 2025, Chris Gerlica, Amy Hsieh, and Sam Halpert hosted the annual Public Interest Advising 101 program, geared towards newer public interest law school advisors. Approximately 41 attended this 2-hour program.

Debbie Baker and Rachel Kronick Rothbart, Work Group Co-chairs, support various section members to submit eight conference proposals covering the following public interest/service topics:

- Caught in the Middle: Strikes, Students, and the Future of Work
- EVERY Lawyer's a Public Servant: Service as a Professional Identity Cornerstone & Career Advancement Tool
- Expanding Capacity & Supporting Graduates: LRAPs in the New Policy Landscape
- Hot Topics in Public Service
- Mission Possible: Public Service Careers in Military Law
- Public Interest Under Pressure: Post-Grad Fellowships, Funding, and Support for Students and Host Organizations
- Public Service and Pro Bono Wrap-up Extravaganza!

- See You in the Fall? The Case for and against Public Service Fall OCI Programs

Members eagerly await the results of their submissions.

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

i.Emily Powers was unable to attend our section meeting, however the section has been actively promoting the following resources:

- ii.NALP Comment on PSLF Changes: <https://www.regulations.gov/comment/ED-2025-OPE-0016-7968>
- iii.Bulletin Article on PSLF: <https://nalpbulletin.mydigitalpublication.com/september-2025/page-21>
- iv.Consider attending AccessLex explainers: <https://www.accesslex.org/tools-and-resources/student-aid-policy-and-action-center>

e. Career Fairs Work Group

The work group has started working on an excel spreadsheet to determine all the public interest career fairs that currently exist.

f. DEI Liaison

No report from the DEI Liaison.

g. Well-Being Champion

At our last section meeting we asked for a volunteer. At this point, no one has volunteered.

3. New Amelioration Best Practices Guide Charge

We received a new charge to review the old Amelioration Best Practices Guide. At our last meeting, we solicited volunteers to review. Our goal will be to meet and review the guide by the end of 2025.

4. Public Interest Section Huddle

Public Interest “Huddles” have continued to meet on 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 next section meetings will be held:

- January 14, 2026 (Weds), 2PM ET
- March 11, 2026 (Weds), 2PM ET