

Memorandum

To: Jennifer Zwagerman, NALP Board Liaison, Public Service Section

Cc: Fred Thrasher, NALP Deputy Director; Samuel Halpert, NALP Director of Public Service Initiatives

From: Rashida T. West, NALP Chair, Public Service Section (2018-2019)

Re: NALP Public Service Section Third Quarter Board Report

Date: January 31, 2019

This report contains updates on the activities of the NALP Public Service Section and its Work Groups for the third quarter. The 2018-2019 Public Service Section Work Groups and Vice-Chairs are:

LRAP/CCRAA Work Group:

Susan J. Curry, Director of Public Interest Law and Policy, The University of Chicago | The Law School

Mini-Conference Planning Work Group:

Kathryn Shelton, Associate Director, Public Interest Center, Northwestern Pritzker School of Law

Lauren E. Seffel, Senior Law Career Counselor, Public Interest Advising and Programs, The George Washington University Law School

NALP Conference RFP Work Group:

Lillian E. Evans, Deputy Director of Legal Recruiting and Deputy EEO Officer, New York City Law Department

Pro Bono Work Group:

Laura Burstein, Director of Public Service and Academic Success, Faculty Supervisor, Government and Public Interest Externship Program, SMU Dedman School of Law

Jennifer Mencarini, Director of Career Development, Elon University School of Law

PSJD Resources Website Work Group:

Michael Bergmann, Executive Director, Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI)

Matt Orlins, Senior Law Career Counselor, The George Washington University Law School

Publications Work Group:

Elizabeth Dunn, Director of Career and Professional Development, Drexel University Thomas R. Kline School of Law

Alison Lintal, Director of Career Services & Internship Programs, Dickinson Law, The Pennsylvania State University

The third Public Service Section Quarterly Call was held on January 15th at 3:00 pm Eastern.

According to NALP Connect, the Public Service Section membership is currently at 295. Section members use NALP Connect to share job openings, information about upcoming conferences and updates on resources. Each week, the Section receives a notification of the “PSJD Public Interest News Digest” posted every Friday by Sam Halpert, which has invaluable updates on hiring trends and other news. The NALP Connect platform continues to be used robustly, and the Section is engaged and supportive on it.

WORK GROUP UPDATES

LRAP Work Group

Vice-chair Susan Curry, Director of Public Interest Law and Policy, The University of Chicago

The LRAP / CCRAA Work Group met on December 4, 2018:

- 1) Brooke Meckler from Equal Justice Works (EJW) gave a legislative update. Given the recent Democratic elections in the House, the future of Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) feels more secure. The PROSPER Act is dead and it is possible that the Aim Higher act will expand loan assistance. EJW continues its legislative advocacy, recently conducting a PSLF presentation for Congressional staffers and very shortly, EJW will announce Isaac Bower's replacement as the EJW point person for Loan Repayment Assistance Programs and PSLF. The media is still reporting a 99% rejection rate for applicants to Department of Education for total PSLF forgiveness; more data is being sought. After the EJW Conference last October, EJW is developing a series of "talking points" for law school administrators regarding the future of PSLF.
- 2) Members discussed reprising its webinar from two years ago, "Creating LRAPs: A Primer for Law Schools," and tentatively set the date for April 2, 2019. Potential panelists were mentioned, including Heather Rastorfer Vlieger, the LRAP Director from Minnesota. Susan Curry will reach out to Heather, and will send around a draft of the webinar slides.
- 3) Susan Feathers has stepped down as Vice-Chair of the group and we are actively seeking a new volunteer to co-chair the work group with Susan Curry.
- 4) List of remaining quarterly Work Group calls.
 - **March 12, 2019 - 3:00 p.m. Eastern/ 2:00 p.m. Central/ 12:00 p.m. Pacific**
 - **June 4, 2019 - 3:00 p.m. Eastern/ 2:00 p.m. Central/ 12:00 p.m. Pacific**

Mini-Conference Planning Work Group

Vice-chairs Kathryn Shelton, Associate Director, Public Interest Center, Northwestern Pritzker School of Law and Lauren E. Seffel, Senior Law Career Counselor, Public Interest Advising and Programs, The George Washington University Law School

The Mini-Conference held on October 25, 2018 at University of California's Washington, DC Center was a great success, with presentations on using technology in new ways, reaching new generations of students, and thinking creatively about professional development for public

interest students. A highlight was the plenary by Kalpana Kotagal of Cohen Milstein, touching on the value of diversity in our profession and our role as leaders and educators in promoting it. Perhaps Sam can give a final count on attendance.

NALP Conference RFP Work Group

Vice-chair: Lillian E. Evans, Deputy Director of Legal Recruiting and Deputy EEO Officer, New York City Law Department (currently on maternity leave)

Fifteen total proposals (up from a total of 7 submitted last year) on behalf of the Public Service section were submitted for consideration for the annual conference in San Diego. The Public Service section's RFPs made up 7% of all RFPs submitted for the conference. A total of seven RFPs listed below were accepted.

1. Easing the Student Debt Crisis: Financial Management Tools to Empower the New Generation
2. Progressive Prosecutors and their Commitment to Criminal Justice Reform
3. New Trends in Affordable Legal Services: Access to Justice Careers in the US and Canada
4. Public Sector Interviewing With Confidence
5. Helping The Helpers: Addressing Secondary Trauma to Support Sustainable Service
6. Movement and Community Lawyering
7. Civil Right to Counsel: How fighting eviction is creating new opportunities for attorneys.

Elizabeth Boe has resigned her position as Vice-Chair for the working group and we will be actively seeking a new Vice-Chair to work with Lillian Evans.

Pro Bono Work Group

Vice-chairs: Laura Burstein, Director of Public Service and Academic Success, SMU Dedman School of Law, and Jennifer Mencarini, Director of Career Development, Elon University School of Law

The Pro Bono Work Group met on January 17, 2019:

1. Preparing a NALP Bulletin article about how law schools without a full-time pro bono coordinator provide meaningful, plentiful pro bono opportunities for students. This article has been accepted for the May 2019 issue.
2. Conducting research with law schools in order to prepare a "best practices" resource about developing pro bono opportunities for students. The survey went live in November of 2018. It is intended to gather information about best practices to ensure compliance

with ABA Standard 303 (b)(2), particularly for the benefit of law schools that do not have a full-time/dedicated pro bono coordinator/advisor. So far response has been light, so the survey will be recirculated in the coming weeks.

3. List of remaining quarterly work group calls:

Thursday, April 18 3 p.m. EDT

PSJD Resources Work Group

Vice-chairs: Michael Bergmann, Executive Director, Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI) and Matt Orlins, Senior Law Career Counselor, The George Washington University Law School

They are continuing to work on the following projects:

1. **Practice Guides:** The PSJD Working Group helped to standardize the format and structure of the Practice Guides found in the Resource Center. There are several potential areas for which they might develop new guides.

Working group members are preparing practice guides in the following areas: Title IX, Consumer Law, Energy, and Housing and Community Development. Group members are conducting practitioner interviews in Energy/Environmental Law and Foreclosure and Consumer Law. The group is also preparing a public-sector salary guide for the state of Texas. After the group reviews the Texas guide as a model, it will look to begin incorporating other states as well.

2. **Student Interviews with Public Interest Practitioners:** An idea to coordinate and then post online interviews with public interest practitioners on PSJD, which would include insights and experiences from the field, including how to land that kind of job, tips for ongoing career development, and details of practice in a particular area of the law.

3. **Government jobs and salaries:** They already have some resources on PSJD in this area that should be reviewed to determine if updates are needed and/or exist. There are also many publicly available databases of government salaries on both the federal and state level. An idea that it could be valuable for PSJD to create a catalog of these resources and how to use them to investigate attorney pay.

Publications Work Group

Vice-chairs: Elizabeth Dunn, Director of Career and Professional Development, Drexel University Thomas R. Kline School of Law and Alison Lintal, Director of Career Services & Internship Programs, Dickinson Law, The Pennsylvania State University

The Publications Work Group has secured authors for publication through June 2019. They are still recruiting authors for the July 2019, and August 2019 NALP Bulletin. They plan to secure 1-2 additional authors as part of the NALP mini-conference in October. Interested authors should contact Alison Lintal at afl2@psu.edu or Liz Dunn at eed45@drexel.edu. Below is the current article list:

Proposed Publication Date	Tentative Topic	Author	Email
February	Pro Bono Fellowships: Returning to Public Interest Practice	Toni Hicks	thicks@clf.org
March	Leveraging local DA and PD offices from pre-law school to post-grad	Mary Beth S. Moore	marybeth.moore@case.edu
April	Preparing Students to be Mental Health Advocates	Teresa Schmiedeler	tschmiedeler@law.umaryland.edu
May	Leading on D&I Issues When Not a Minority (with Courtney Carter)*	Nicole Netkin-Collins	Nicole.NetkinCollins@Colorado.edu
	Creating Pro Bono Opportunities when you lack resources or a dedicated role	Jennifer Gibert Mencarini	jmencarini2@elon.edu
June	Community Collaborations – Social Justice & Pro Bono School Partnerships	Pam Merstock-Wolfe	pmerstoc@camden.rutgers.edu
July			
August			

* Co-sponsored with Diversity + Inclusion Section – Two May Submissions