

MEMORANDUM

To: Mike Ende, NALP Board Liaison, Public Service Section
Cc: Fred Thrasher, NALP Deputy Director; Samuel Halpert, NALP Director of Public Service Initiatives
From: Susan Curry (UChicago) & Lilli Evans (NYC Law Dept.), NALP Co-Chairs, Public Service Section (2020-21)
Re: NALP Public Service Section First Quarter Board Report
Date: June 23, 2020

This report contains updates on the activities of the NALP Public Service Section and its Work Groups for the first quarter. The 2020-2021 Public Service Section Work Groups and Vice-Chairs are:

LRAP/CCRAA Work Group:

- **Jennifer Geller**, Oregon
- **Aoife Delargy Lowe**, Equal Justice Works

Member Relations Work Group: **NEW!**

- **Diane Fears**, Wayne State

Mini-Conference Planning Work Group:

- **Claire Cusella**, Equal Justice Works
- **Glory McLaughlin**, Alabama

NALP Annual Education Conference and Webinar Planning Work Group:

- **Elyse Diamond**, Pace
- **Sharon Buckingham**, Villanova

Pro Bono Work Group:

- **Laura Burstein**, SMU Dedman School of Law
- **Jennifer Mencarini**, Elon University School of Law

PSJD Resources Development Work Group:

- **Mike Kwarcinski**, Wayne State
- **Brent Page**, Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI)

Publications Work Group:

- **Brooke Meckler**, Equal Justice Works
- **Rachel Kronick Rothbart**, University of Southern California

On May 4th, the Public Service Section held its kick-off call using Zoom, in lieu of the Montreal AEC Section Meeting. Susan Curry and Lilli Evans introduced themselves as the Section's new co-Chairs and Sam Halpert presented information about PSJD's new tool for collecting employer information post-COVID. During that call, the co-chairs put out a recruitment call for members to join its Working Groups, both as at-large members and Group Chairs/Co-Chairs. Finally the Section set its quarterly meeting dates:

- Tuesday, June 16 at 3pm EST/ 2pm CST/ 12pm PST

- Tuesday, October 6 at 3pm EST/ 2pm CST/ 12pm PST
- Wednesday, January 20 at 3pm EST/ 2pm CST/ 12pm PST
- Thursday, March 25 at 3pm EST/ 2pm CST/ 12pm PST

The first Public Service Section Quarterly Call was held on June 16th on a NALP-hosted Zoom call. First, the section observed a moment of silence to reflect on the lives lost during this very difficult time with racial disparities in this country laid bare and disturbing news reports coming out all too regularly. Then the section turned to the discussion of how we can support those entering public service careers to work on important racial and social justice issues. Next, Sam provided a PSJD update and discussed how the section can help centralize pro bono and volunteer opportunities with organizations working on racial/social justice issues, as well as COVID issues. Next, the Work Groups provided their reports (see below). At the meeting's conclusion, Susan asked members to make a special effort to attend the NALP Public Service Town Hall on the following afternoon, June 17th. The Public Service Section co-chairs helped coordinate and co-host this Town Hall on Public Service issues and Mike Ende provided a brief preview of the Town Hall agenda to Section members.

The Public Service Section membership currently stands at 303, according to NALP Connect. Section members use NALP Connect to share job openings, information about upcoming conferences and updates on resources. Each Friday, the Section receives a notification of the "PSJD Public Interest News Digest" posted by Sam Halpert, which has invaluable updates on hiring trends and other news. The NALPConnect platform continues to be used robustly, and the Section is engaged and supportive on it.

WORK GROUP UPDATES

LRAP/CCRA Work Group

Work Group Co-Chairs have scheduled their Work Group call for July 8th at 12:00-12:30 EDT, 9-9:30 PST. On this call, members will talk about what the group has done in the past and discuss some ideas for this year's working group. Aofie and Jennifer are hoping to provide quarterly reports which they would post on NALP Connect's Public Service Section. They want to explore articles, a Reddit Ask Me Anything, and other apps and ideas for pushing out information to section members.

Member Relations Work Group **NEW**

The purpose of this new Work Group is to reach out to new and/or continuing members on a periodic basis to welcome them to the section and educate them about ways to get involved; and to occasionally reach out to additional members encouraging them to join the section. Diane Fears from Wayne State volunteered to chair this Work Group and several members of the section joined during the first quarterly call. The plan is to run a quarterly NALPConnect report of new members beginning this summer. The Work Group will then contact these new members and welcome them to the section. The Work Group also is considering constructing a packet of information that is provided to new members to ease their transition into their new call. During the section call, Rochelle McCain (Pitt) and Laura Burstein (SMU) joined this Working Group.

Mini-Conference Planning Work Group

Now that the Equal Justice works career fair has officially announced that it will be going virtual this late October, the Mini-Con planners are considering whether to continue to tie the timing of the Mini-Con to that of the EJW fair and, if not, when will be the most appropriate time of the year to hold the Mini-Con. The Work Group was happy to hear from the NALP Board that the Mini-Con can be held remotely. The Work Group

believes that this will allow more law school and employer representatives to attend. The Work Group plans to survey the Section to determine when the best time of year would be to hold the conference. The Work Group then needs to set a speaker and panels for the event.

NALP Annual Education Conference and Webinar Planning Work Group

At both the virtual 2020 AEC Section kick-off call and the first quarterly Section meeting, members discussed possible RFP topics for the 2021 Annual Education Conference. Members considered which pre-approved 2020 RFPs still had relevance, or even increased relevance, for 2021; members also suggested many new ideas including those surrounding the pandemic and racial justice issues. The Work Group convened a section-wide brainstorming call on May 27th to discuss topics and collaborations. The Work Group Chairs also reached out via NALPConnect to solicit proposals; they are reviewing RFP proposal drafts and providing feedback.

We expect the following RFPs to be submitted or re-submitted on behalf of the Public Service Section for the 2021 Annual Conference:

- Public Interest Career Fairs – Standing out in the (Zoom) Spotlight
- How to Talk About Race on Campus; Anti-Racism Related Programming & Resources
- How to Supervise and Mentor Students in a Virtual World
- Who’s the Expert Here? Hitting the Reset Button on Peer Counseling
- Judicial Clerkships: A Strategic Stop on the Public Interest Career Path
- How Students are Meeting the Pro Bono Need in the COVID World
- Cultivating Transferable Skillsets in Students Through Innovative Pro Bono Opportunities
- More Than Finding The Job: Building and Fostering A Culture of Public Interest and Service In Your Law School
- Preparing Students for Pro Bono & Public Service: A Plug & Play Curriculum
- The New Normal – Public Interest/Public Service Hiring During and Post COVID-19

Pro Bono Work Group:

The Pro Bono Work Group met on June 18th. After an initial discussion about how to better track Work Group members, discussion turned to the creation of subcommittees around each of the following projects/topics in order to create a schedule for this year's work:

- Completion of a “plug and play” pro bono/public interest curriculum for law students.
- Creation of a pro bono/public interest resource bank. Members brainstormed about what a shared resource bank should contain, how to avoid any antitrust issues that may be presented, and where such a resource could be stored/managed moving forward.
- Identifying, creating and publicizing remote pro bono opportunities for lawyers and law students in the age of social distancing. This included a discussion of opportunities to provide pro bono legal service to those most impacted by the coronavirus pandemic, as well as racial injustice and structural/systemic inequality.
- Because time ran out, the Work Group tabled one more item for a follow-up discussion: how we as a work group can support the racial justice movement to ensure equity and inclusion in our work with NALP, and in our respective work with students, attorneys and pro bono clients.

The tentative remaining schedule for this Work Group’s calls is as follows:

- September 17, 2020 – 3-4 p.m. EDT
- January 14, 2021 – 3-4 p.m. EDT

- March 25, 2021 – 3-4 p.m. EDT

PSJD Resources Work Group

This Work Group's short-term agenda includes:

- Evaluating and updating the current resources available on PSJD
- Developing methods for community-based updates to resources
- Will be scheduling our first virtual meeting soon to discuss plan going forward

The Vice Chairs met with Sam on June 22 to outline specific objectives for the upcoming year. These objectives include:

- Get from Sam on Monday
- Something about the joint project on Gov't sec'y clearance project with the JD Career Advisors Section.

Publications Work Group

The Publications Work Group has issued a NALP Connect Call for Bulletin Article Ideas and Authors. Articles can range in topic and format, and are typically around 750 words in length. Turn your RFP idea into an article, or feel free to contact us if you want to flesh out a new idea. We are thrilled to help interested NALP members develop ideas into interesting and thoughtful articles!

The Work Group is preparing a slate of proposed articles for the NALP Bulletin. Once the slate is prepared, the Work Group Chairs plan to follow up individually with authors to finalize topics, deadlines and publication dates once the proposal has been approved. Below is a tentative list of Bulletin article ideas/authors:

- Newer Public Interest law fellowship/ TBD
- Fellowships responding to Covid 19/ EJW staffer
- RFP survey (convert some ideas to Bulletin articles)/ Elyse Diamond
- Counseling students facing racism or sexual harassment/TBD
- Counseling students on balancing social media presence and professional presence/TBD
- Remote Supervision in post-COVID environment/ University of Denver author
- TBD/Rochelle McCain
- OSU's hybrid clinic-pro bono veterans project/Cybele Smith
- A profile of the Florida Bar Foundation's Pro Bono Law School Challenge/TBD
- Race in the Public Sector/TBD

Please note that we have not yet been able to secure Chairs for the:

Knowledge Management Work Group (collaborates with the KM Advisory Group in helping to identify, review, and classify NALP information relevant to public service to assist in more effective data searches); and the *Environmental Scanning Work Group* (conducts environmental scanning and compiles relevant information regarding any fallout and opportunities that may arise due to the pandemic, including best practices for providing legal services remotely, partnerships with private law firms in the event of delayed start dates, and the impact of delayed Bar Exams on public service fellowships).

We will continue to search for Chairs and would appreciate input from the Board.