

To: NALP Board of Directors  
From: Karen Comstock, Chair, NALP Public Service Section  
Date: March 12, 2009  
Re: Fourth Quarterly Report

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Here is a summary of activities of the NALP Public Service Section for 2008-2009:

**NALP Annual Conference Programming**

Work Group Members: *Andrew Chapin - Fordham University Law School (Chair), Lauren Dubin – Georgetown, Paula Nailon – University of Arizona, Tari Williams – University of Alabama*

The Section submitted several proposals. The following were accepted and will be presented at the upcoming NALP Conference:

A Report on the New Guide to Student Practice Rules: Boosting Practical Skills Training in Government and Public Interest Settings	Paula Nailon, Tom Maligno, Rep. from office of Hon. Juanita Bing Newton
Beyond the Mentoring Program: Creative Uses of Alumni to Strengthen a Law School's Public Interest Program	Harlene Katzman, Ellen Chapnick, Alexa Shabecoff, Marni Lennon
Counseling for Public Interest Careers from 1L to Retirement	Karen V Comstock, Tom Maligno
From Student to Young Associate: Keeping the Pro Bono Ethos Vibrant	Melanie L Kushnir, Lee Meredith Branson, Steven H Schulman, Lisa M Dickinson
Policy Careers: Counseling for Careers Beyond Litigation	Deborah A. Ellis, Spencer P Boyer, Amanda R Broun, TBD
Public Service Loan Forgiveness & More!	Heather Wells Jarvis, Don Saunders, Kelly Carmody

These proposals were declined:

Hot Topic Discussion for Public Service Section	Andrew Chapin
Reporting and Tracking Law School Pro Bono Data	Melanie L Kushnir, Rebecca Wofford, Holly Eaton, Sara Sommarstrom
The Equal Justice Works E-Guide to Public Service at America's Law Schools	Heather Wells Jarvis

**Public Service Mini-Conference**

Work Group Members: *Michelle Stevens - Emory University School of Law (Chair), Cybele Smith – Ohio State, Lauren Duben – Georgetown*

Once again our section organized a public service mini-conference for career services administrators held in conjunction with the Equal Justice Works Conference. Held on October 11, the Mini-Conference attracted over 100 registrants. The morning session included a public service section meeting, demonstration of PSLawNet's new website, and the Pro Bono Publico award presentation (all of which Steve Grumm describes in his report). The afternoon session featured three break-out sessions:

*Reaping the Benefits of Pro Bono in Law School: Counseling Student to Make the Most of Doing Good*

Holly Eaton, Georgetown; Melanie Kushnir, ABA Center for Pro Bono; Tom Maligno, Tauro; Pamela DeFanti Robinson, USC

*Counseling on Public Interest Salary Issues*

Andrew Chapin, Fordham; Tamara Devieux-Adams, GW; Steve Grumm, NALP; Amber Harding, Washington Legal Clinic

*I Want to Work for the New Administration. Can You Help Me?*

Nicole Goren, Corp. for National and Community Service; Margaret Anne Gottlieb, GW Graduate School of Political Management; Michelle Cotter Richards, GW; Kevin Simpson, Partnership for Public Service

## **PUBLICATIONS**

Work Group Members: *Marni Lennon - University of Miami School of Law (Chair), Tia Barnes - Duke, Kate Corcoran - University of Washington, Michelle Vodenik – Chicago Kent, Teresa Schmiedeler, University of Maryland, Tari Williams, University of Alabama, Paula Nailon, University of Arizona*

Once again, the Public Service Section is almost 100% successful in providing at least one public service-focused article for each edition of the NALP *Bulletin*. Here is our publishing schedule:

December 2008: Civil Justice, Inc.: A Model for "Low Bono" Services

Authors: Teresa Schmiedeler and Elizabeth Kane

January 2009: Developing Leadership Skills

Authors: Cait Clarke and Ericka Hines

February 2009: Harvard Law's Public Interest Reunion and 3L Tuition Remission Program

Author: Alexa Shabecoff

March 2009: Engaging Broad Communities to Engrain Public Service into Legal Education

Author: Kate Lawrence

April 2009: Predicting Outcomes – What Makes a Good Public Interest Lawyer?  
Author: Charlene Gomes

May 2009: Public Defender Careers  
Author: Deb Ellis

July 2009: International Public Interest Internships  
Author: Sara Rakita

In addition, Paula Nailon has enlisted several volunteers to help compile the National Directory of State Student Practice Rules. The project is ongoing.

### **MONITORING OF THE COLLEGE COST REDUCTION AND ACCESS ACT**

Work Group Members: *Bill Penn - Lewis & Clark Law School (Chair), Kristen Bryant – University of Florida, Sam Charron – WNEC Law, Heather Jarvis – EJW, Michelle Vodenik – Chicago-Kent, Cindy Wilson – Northwestern*

This Work Group's assignment is to monitor developments with the College Cost Reduction and Access Act ("Federal Loan Forgiveness" legislation) and communicate this information to the Public Service Section membership.

Bill Penn delivered a 15 minute report during the section's October 11 meeting. His report summarized the legislative developments regarding the CCRAA since the section's last meeting in April. In March he developed a report on funding or lack thereof for the Prosecutor and Defender and Civil Legal Services federal government LRAPs, and recommendations on where to lobby for each of the 2009 and 2010 budget years. This will be distributed at the NALP Conference.

### **EXPANDING FEDERAL JOB-SEEKING RESOURCES**

Work Group Members: *Nicole Vikan - Georgetown University Law Center (Chair), Lauren Dubin – Georgetown, Norma Freitas – Willamette, Eve Stotland – NYU, Tari Williams – University of Alabama, Paula Nailon – University of Arizona*

Work Group Advisors: *Tim McManus and Kevin Simpson from the Partnership for Public Service*

This work group has done an outstanding job, which is one of the reasons we are pleased that the chair, Nicole Vikan, has agreed to chair the public service section in 2009-2010. The group is optimistic that The Federal Legal Employment Opportunities Guide will be ready for its online re-launch within the next month. They are working to update and integrate the older material with the new, more user-friendly content on PSLawNet. Much of the writing has been completed and work remains on a few sections. The new content soon will contain information about different types of jobs for lawyers, places to find opportunities, and tips on successful applications.

**PRIVATE-TO-PUBLIC INTEREST PIPELINE**

Work Group Members: *Hillary Exter - Fordham University Law School (Chair), Tia Barnes – Duke, Bill Pen – Lewis & Clark, Nicole Vikan – Georgetown*

Given the reality that many law students interested in public service careers take jobs in the private sector right out of law school, this Work Group's goal is to develop resources for law school career counselors to assist alumni in making the private-to-public career transition.

The work group succeeded in defining their goals and we anticipate that work will proceed in the next year. The focus is on 1) counseling law school alumni on to how to transition from private sector work to public interest work and 2) working with Legal Services Corp.(LSC)/National Legal Aid and Defender Association (NLADA) and law firms to increase recruitment of mid-level attorneys and raise awareness of opportunities with legal services program. The group's role is to 1) write articles for the NALP bulletin and various Bar Publications; 2) facilitate workshops at future NLADA/ABA and NALP conferences, and 3) develop materials for LSC/NLADA and/or firms.