

To: NALP Board of Directors  
From: Nicole Vikan, Chair, NALP Public Service Section  
Date: February 12, 2010  
Re: Second Quarterly Report

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The Public Service Section has five Work Groups; below please find a summary of the work for each Group: 2010 NALP Annual Conference Proposal Submissions (the Section will have five programs in Puerto Rico); Federal Job-Seeking Resources (which would be more aptly-titled Government Job-Seeking Resources); Monitoring the Recession's Impact on the Public Service Job Market; Publications; and the Public Service Mini-Conference.

## WORK GROUP REPORTS

### 2010 NALP ANNUAL CONFERENCE PROPOSAL SUBMISSIONS AND SELECTIONS

*Work Group Members: Cybele Smith (Ohio State—Chair), Andrew Chapin (Fordham), Tom Schoenherr (Fordham), Jessica Mehl (Toledo), Cindy Wilson (Northwestern), Sean Rhiney (Cincinnati)*

The following programs are scheduled for the 2010 Annual Education Conference:

- *Deferred Associates and Public Sector Placements: Looking back and building relationships.* Michelle Stevens, Kelly S. Mixon, Jennifer Thomas, Cybele E. Smith
- *“Uncle Sam Wants You”:* *Exploring the scope and breadth of legal career opportunities offered by The Judge Advocate General's Corps.* Alfred Ray English, Afsana Ahmed, Eric McDonald, Holly Bryant, Martha A. Rodriguez
- *External support for public service initiatives: Meet the CAPSILS Team.* Charlene Gomes, Steve Grumm, Melanie Kushnir, Arlene Rivera Finkelstein
- *Public Interest Workshop - What's Working, What's Not, & Hot Topics.* Andrew Chapin, Stuart Smith, Nicole Vikan, Valerie Kapilow, Charlene Gomes
- *Federal Career Counseling for Beginners.* Karen Comstock (Cornell), Paula Nailon (University of Arizona)

### FEDERAL JOB-SEEKING RESOURCES

*Work Group Members: Donna Miller (Illinois), Dena Bauman (UDC), Judy Corello (William & Mary), Toni St. John (Maryland), Jessica Mehl (Toledo), Heather DiFranco (Case Western), and Alyssa Dragnich (PSU/Dickinson)*

Dena Bauman initiated a project to compile state and local government opportunities on PSLawNet. The project should be completed this spring.

### MONITORING THE RECESSION'S IMPACT ON THE PUBLIC SERVICE JOB MARKET

*Work Group Members: Carol Vizzier (Washington University), Rachel Dawson (John Marshall), Nicole Clark (U. Texas), Alisa Rosales (DePaul—Chair), Judy Corello (William & Mary), Cindy Wilson (Northwestern), Michelle Harper (Suffolk), Melanie Kushnir (ABA), and Ericka Hines (EJW)*

Vice-Chair Alisa Rosales offered this report: “The Recessional Impact group has completed another section-wide call to discuss the current state of the public interest market across the country. Participants represented New York, Texas, Illinois, Missouri, Massachusetts, and Iowa, amongst others, as well as Equal Justice Works. The March Bulletin will include an article by Susan DeConstanza and Alisa Rosales regarding developments and adjustments being made by public service employers, advisors, and job seekers in the current economy.”

## PUBLICATIONS

*Work Group Members: Jennifer Flexner (Tulsa), Nicole Ayala (U. Conn), Jessica Mehl (Toledo), Susan DeCostanza (Chicago-Kent), Teresa Schmiedeler (U. Maryland), and Heather DiFranco (Case Western—Chair)*

We have a group of volunteers working the creation of a new resource, Best Practices in Managing Public-Interest Experiential Learning Programs. Our goal is completion by the beginning of academic year 2010.

We are in the planning phase of working on a written resource covering various aspects/benefits of federal work study (FWS), which will be geared toward non-financial aid administrators at law schools (career counselors, pro bono program managers, clinical supervisors etc.). We will explain the logistics of FWS, how to lobby for FWS for law students within a larger university, and best practices in administering these funds.

Two additional projects on which we hope to begin work include best practices in facilitating and managing public-interest summer funding for law students; and best practices in recruiting and supervising law students (to be made freely available to public service employers).

We also have many Bulletin contributions. Heather DiFranco provided the following update: “We’ve published six articles so far this fiscal year and have three more in the pipeline. Our March issue article is a report on the outcomes of the many public interest deferral placements and how they’ve affected the public interest world. In April and May, our publications will discuss the multiple pathways into careers in the public service and tips for breaking into careers in public policy and administration. By the end of this cycle of publications, 12 different members of NALP will have submitted Bulletin articles on behalf of the Public Service Section.”

## PUBLIC SERVICE MINI-CONFERENCE

*Work Group Members: Steve Grumm (NALP), Jarrod Shirk (American—Chair), Lauren Dubin (Georgetown), Nicole Vikan (Georgetown)*

The NALP/PSLawNet Public Service Mini-Conference was a huge success with nearly 130 attendees, and 40 people attended the “Public Interest Advising 101” program.

Thank you. Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions.

Nicole A. Vikan  
Assistant Director, Public Interest & Government Careers  
Office of Public Interest & Community Service  
Georgetown Law Center  
202.662.9054  
<http://www.law.georgetown.edu/opics/>