

NALP Small/Solo Section Quarterly Report

To: Andrew Chapin, NALP Board Liaison to Small/Solo
From: Jennifer Zwagerman, NALP Small/Solo Section Chair
CC: Fred Thrasher, NALP Deputy Director
Date: January 22, 2014

The first few months of the year are some of the hardest for those in Small and Solo CSOs. In addition to the start of the new semester and working with students, we need to add in the additional time and stress of annual employment reporting and data gathering. Because of that, we had only a short quarterly call in January, with little planned for the upcoming months. In April we plan to have another quarterly call, serving as a lead-in to our Section meeting at the Annual Conference. The hour we have there is never enough to cover all the topics of interest, and during the call we will set an agenda for the meeting and do some preliminary discussions of Hot Topics (including employment reporting results).

A. Conference Planning

Dena Bauman indicated during our quarterly call that in preparation for the upcoming session at the Annual Meeting, her group would like to hear from some of us regarding non-employment reporting needs and concerns. Several volunteered over the phone, and Dena was planning to reach out via NALPConnect as well.

B. Bulletin Articles

The following articles were published in the NALP Bulletin by Section members in late 2014: "Blinded by the Big City Lights: Career Development's Role in Addressing the Rural Lawyer Crisis" by Jennifer Zwagerman (September 2014); "Building Resilience in Law Students" by Jennifer Powell (November 2014); "No Time, Less Money - Exploring How to Provide Valuable Services to Your Students with Limited Resources" by Suzanne Hill Patrick (December 2014). I believe that we have one upcoming article yet in 2015 from our Section as well. Thanks goes to Maria Comas for organizing our Bulletin submissions again this year.

C. Conference Calls

The January call was attended by approximately 10 members and lasted about 20 minutes. No real concerns were raised by any members, and there was limited discussion on how the previous semester wrapped up and preparations for 2015. Employment reporting was the topic on everyone's minds, with most discussion centering on data gathering techniques. One question raised was if any schools were using incentives to try to increase responses from recent graduates. Some schools indicated they provided a school card holder to all those who responded as a general thank you, others indicated they were considering providing small gift cards or raffle drawing entries to encourage higher response rates. For the most part, everyone had made at least initial outreach efforts to 2014 graduates to start the process, with varying levels of response rates.

D. Others News/Events

Thanks to the hard work of Alisa Rosales and Lauren Donald, our section submitted a concise summary of concerns and issues for consideration by the Long Range Planning Committee. Highlighting how NALP can continue to and improve support for small CSOs in a changing law school environment, suggestions, ideas and concerns were all noted.

The April call and report will likely be coordinated and provided by Alisa Rosales and others who have volunteered to help out that month. I will be on maternity leave from roughly mid-March through early May and am unsure as to availability during any given daytime hour in that time period. In case I am not the one drafting the next Quarterly Report, I want to say it has been a pleasure to serve a second term as Chair of the Small/Solo Section and to work with such a wonderful group of dedicated professionals. I have enjoyed my time in this position and look forward to remaining active in the Section and NALP as a whole.