

Small/Solo CSO Section October Board Report

The Small/Solo CSO Section wants to offer NALP and the Board our sincere thanks and appreciation for the September town hall focused on small and solo CSO topics and concerns. It was a wonderful forum and dialogue during these challenging times!

The Section had a call on October 8, 2020. Alisa Benedict O'Brien welcomed those in attendance and offered special THANKS to all the members who:

- Wrote a bulletin article thus far or are working on one;
- Submitted a conference RFP;
- Attended the recent Small/Solo Town Hall; and/or
- Nominated yourself or a colleague for a NALP leadership role.

Board Liaison Gwen Ferrell provided a Board report, including: that the Board approved the 2020-21 budget; creation of a financial committee; Diversity Summit update with a note that there may be more frequent diversity and inclusion programs; NALP's commitment to fighting racial injustice; reminder to share diversity information from your organization on NALP's page and to complete your demographic census to help support NALP's efforts; reminder of Professionalism videos for student use (on NALP site – developing Professional Lawyer page); and took questions from the Section members.

Vice Chair/Work Groups provided updates.

Vice-Chair of Annual Education Conference / Bulletin Article and Webinar Planning, Trisha Y. Nakamura, shared that the Section is producing robust article content and she and NALP are grateful for the timely and rich content.

September 2020: The Path Forward for Recent Grads (Alisa Benedict O'Brien)

November 2020: It's a Small(er) World After all: How CDOs are Coping with Getting Event Smaller (Kathryn Overberg)

November 2020: How to maintain engagement working remotely or social distancing (Mike Ruiz)

Vice-Chair of Member Relations and Membership Development, Tanya Lundberg, suggested that our section organize a program or event around the 50th anniversary celebration. More planning to come.

Vice-Chair of Programming Best Practices, Katie Atkinson Overberg, shared that she is working on setting up a meeting with Vice Chair of Law Student Professional Development section to strategize and work on the student professional development toolkit charge. The Vice-Chairs are meeting soon and will then create a work group to develop a law student professional development toolkit.

Vice-Chair of Environmental Scanning/Resources, Maria Comas, shared the launch of the new resource pool and the process for contributing resources. Some members have already contributed resources. Maria encourages others to please continue to contribute. She also noted that we took down our resources from 2010 and essentially are focusing on building a new resource pool. One colleague suggested that we try to use thumb nails/images for the documents to be posted on the pool/page instead of just links as it will be easier to navigate and more visually appealing. We hope this is the start of robust resource library for all NALP members.

We then engaged in a general discussion about the fall semester, student programs, engagement, and employer outreach. Discussion touched on the following highlights:

- Are schools recording more programs and videos this year?
- One school shared having smaller group sessions for 1Ls in person so they can connect.
- One school held small in-person student meetings with online options.
- Hard to assess what the students want and need in virtual space.
- Narrated PowerPoint with live session (resume reviews) – had alumni volunteers review the resumes (was a good way to get buy-in).
- Remind students that some employers are actively recruiting during this time and not to wait until spring.

Next, we discussed having a section happy hour/networking event and we definitely want to get the section membership together beyond the phone calls! The Vice-Chairs will be meeting soon to plan such an event, with the following considerations that were offered:

- Happy Hour with a theme;
- Zoom with breakout sections so newer members can talk to more experienced professionals and cover a variety of topics;
- Survey the section to gauge topics/discussion points/breakout room ideas to help with planning an event; and
- Pull and review the feedback from topics previously suggested for recent town hall.

Lastly, Alisa reminded the section about upcoming calls and to continue to engage with one another.

- Next call: Thursday, January 21 at 3PM EST - Quarterly Call