

NALP Small & Solo CSO Section Quarterly Report

TO: Arturo Thompson, Board Liaison

FROM: Kimberly Underdown and Maria Comas, Section Co-Chairs

CC: Claire Nash

DATE: October 20, 2022

Summary of Meeting

Our section held our second meeting on September 8, 2022 where 22 members of our section joined us for some great discussion. Maria shared all upcoming NALP events and webinars and encouraged members to attend. Vice Chairs provided updates (Section I) and several topics were discussed (Section II).

I. Workgroup Updates

1. Annual Education Conference/Bulletin+ and Webinar Planning (Vice-Chairs: Maria Comas, Duquesne University School of Law, comas@duq.edu; Kimberly Underdown, St. Mary's University School of Law, kunderdown@stmarytx.edu)
 - a. Jill Gerrard proposed a webinar on "providing employers with meaningful tips for writing job descriptions that attract law student applicants" – Still need to provide Mary Beal with a date; Mary proposed this to be a Bulletin article as well; Alisa O'Brian shared 2017 NALP resources on this topic (resources need to be updated); Willow King Locke offered to develop an outline to provide to employers
2. Member Relations and Membership Development (Vice-Chair: Tammy King, Creighton University School of Law, tammyking@creighton.edu; Maria Comas, Duquesne University School of Law, comas@duq.edu; Kimberly Underdown, St. Mary's University School of Law, kunderdown@stmarytx.edu)
 - a. Sent welcome emails out to the new members of our section and invited them to our meetings and to join our community
 - b. Calendar invites went out to all of our member base for meeting
3. Environmental Scanning (Vice-Chairs: Sophia Dinkel, Washburn University School of Law, sophia.dinkel@washburn.edu; Stacey Blakeman, The University of Kansas School of Law, staceyblakeman@ku.edu)
 - a. Provided us with list of topics for our "Tuesday Topic" discussions
 - b. "Tuesday Topics" are back in full swing – Maria and Kim alternate each week posting a new topic for the group to discuss
4. Programming Best Practices (Vice-Chairs: Whitley Pike, IU Robert H. McKinney School of Law, wpike@iu.edu; Tom Lee, Penn State Dickinson Law, tlee@psu.edu)
 - a. Looking to partner with Environmental Scanning to survey the member base; survey question list has been approved to move forward
5. Knowledge Management (Vice-Chair: Stacey Blakeman, The University of Kansas School of Law, staceyblakeman@ku.edu)

- a. Conducting an inventory of resources available
- 6. DEI Liaison Courtney Carter, Jenner & Block LLP, CCarter@jenner.com
 - a. Courtney attended the meeting – no DEI-related issues or topics were raised
- 7. Well-Being Champion (Vice-Chairs: Kimberly Underdown, St. Mary's University School of Law, kunderdown@stmarytx.edu; Katy Stack, University of Montana School of Law, katy.stack@mso.umt.edu)
 - a. Well-Being Champions met on September 29 to discuss any concerns from our section. Some topics discussed were the flood of information/communication overload, importance of building skills to deal with mental health, need for tools to protect one's own well-being, and a feeling of isolation even when on a team. Requested that each section think about what resources are needed.
- 8. Communications (Vice-Chair: Maria Comas, Duquesne University School of Law, comas@duq.edu)
 - a. Maria is on the schedule for NALP social media posts

II. Topics of discussion

- 1. Shortage of attorneys in rural America, definitely seeing this in the Midwest
 - a. Possible partnerships between NALP/ABA and LSAC regarding need for rural attorneys
 - b. Medical Model with fellowships might help fill the need
 - c. Need for succession plans with rural firms
- 2. Should there be a CLE on ethics of doing meeting via Zoom?
- 3. Shift in culture due to COVID

III. Future Meeting Dates

- 1. December 8, 2022
- 2. February 9, 2023