

NALP Small & Solo CSO Section Quarterly Report

TO: Tammy King, Board Liaison
FROM: Kimberly Underdown and Leslie Becker Wilson, Section Co-Chairs
CC: NALP Info
DATE: February 1, 2024

Our section held its 3rd quarterly meeting on January 9, where we had a great turnout of 24 members, including 5 new members. Jill Gerard, our Wellness Champion, opened the meeting with a short breathing/centering exercise. Tammy King provided the group with Board updates, including NALP AEC registration being open and the NALP call for volunteers. Tammy and other members talked about their volunteer experience with NALP and all encouraged members to get involved. Since our meeting followed the JDCA Section quarterly meeting, Kim was able to relay items discussed in that meeting to the attendees on our meeting. (This was a great way to open the meeting since everything discussed in the JDCA meeting also pertains to the Small and Solo CSO section.) Following the update, Vice Chairs provided their updates (Section I), several topics were discussed (Section II), and future meeting dates (Section III).

I. Work Group Updates

Annual Education Conference/Bulletin+ and Webinar Planning

Rebecca Edmiston, Duquesne University School of Law, edmistonr@duq.edu

- Rebecca has been in contact with Alisa Benedict O'Brien and Jill Gerrard about writing articles since the last quarterly meeting. Alisa is planning to write an article on how to prepare for an ABA site visit for March publication, and Jill is planning an article on how she has been incorporating wellness exercises into 1L student meetings for potential publication this summer.

Environmental Scanning

Stacey Blakeman, The University of Kansas School of Law, staceyblakeman@ku.edu

April Giancola, Campbell Univ. School of Law, agiancola@campbell.edu

- Stacey and April will continue to collect Tuesday Topic ideas for this year and think of best practices to collect the data for future use.

Programming Best Practices

Willow King-Locke, IU Robert H. McKinney School of Law, wkingloc@iupui.edu

Whitley Pike, Santa Clara University School of Law, wpike@scu.edu

- Willow and Whitley have developed a survey in Qualtrics regarding programming best practices. This was sent out before the holiday break and a reminder went out last week to the Chief CSO section to ensure we received one response per school. This survey asked about learning objectives, format, how success was measured as well as feedback. They were pleased to report that they have received ten unique survey responses, and plan to meet in the next month to analyze the responses and figure out next steps for disseminating the information.

Well-Being Champion

Jill Gerrard, University of Hawaii WS Richardson School of Law, jgerrard@hawaii.edu

- As we mentioned, Jill opened with a 5-minute exercise which the group loved!

II. Topics of discussion

- Release of grades and how to counsel students when grades were not as great as they had hoped; talked about the importance of students knowing they are more than a grade; encouraging students to focus on long-term goals, especially if grades come into play
- Judicial Clerkships and the lack of applicants; harder for them to be competitive with Big Law salaries being what they are now
- Judicial Internships and the lack of funding to help students who cannot afford to work unpaid; there are some equity issues at play with unpaid jobs; the importance of stipends with these roles

III. Future Section Meeting Dates

- Thursday, March 7, 3:00 EST/2:00 CST/12:00 PST