

NALP Small/Solo Section Quarterly Report

To: Vic Massaglia, NALP Board Liaison to Small/Solo Section
From: Jennifer Zwagerman, NALP Small/Solo Section Chair
CC: Fred Thrasher, Deputy Director
Date: 1/15/2014

We continue to have a strong Section in the Small/Solo CSO group, with members who remain active, involved, welcoming and always willing to share information, despite limited time and resources. There is not a lot of activity right now on the NALP Connect page between the holidays and now employment data collection season. However I know that members are relying on emails to each other with questions and resources and we had good turnout on our call this week.

A. Bulletin Articles

Maria Comas, our Vice-Chair in this area, did a great job of coordinating our submissions. Many of the seven articles submitted by our Section this year have been published or submitted for publication, and we have a number of members who contributed or co-authored submissions through other Sections.

B. Outreach

Our Vice Chair for Outreach, Laura Weseley, continues to send individual welcome email to all new group members. We've had quite a few join the section over these past few months. Laura is also working to find ways to determine if we have schools that fall within our group but have not joined the Section.

C. Quarterly Call

Our most recent Quarterly call was held on January 14. A summary of the call was posted immediately afterward on NALP Connect. We had good turnout for the call (as usual) and members built upon our agenda topics to highlight areas of concern or issues they were seeing pop up in their offices. Topics included:

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- Planning for NALP 2014
 - Spring 2014 OCI
 - OSCAR and Judicial Clerkship Changes (and what it means for 1Ls)
 - Employment Data Collection
 - Upcoming Events/Presentations
 - Board questions
 - Section webinars and ways to continue to improve value of our Section

We plan one more call in March to discuss any hot topics or other issues that should be on our horizon for the April meeting. We also decided in April to discuss our Section webinars and resources, including potential timing and topics.

Discussion also came up related to some smaller and mid-size firms that are not NALP members and are either not aware or choose not to follow NALP hiring guidelines when it comes to OCI offers. Exploding or short term offers have been an issue at a number of schools.

With employment reporting, two items of note were that we have learned that you cannot input more than one survey year at a time into Symplicity (or so it seems) and so while we are doing the Class of 2013 work we cannot do the same for Class of 2014. In addition, the ABA has noted concerns related to importing data from Symplicity, and so members need to be aware of this should they try to export data right from Symplicity to the ABA site.

D. Upcoming Events/Plans

As mentioned above, we have already started to do some planning for our April Section meeting in Seattle. At this point, it sounds like we should have good turnout. We continue to seek ways to add value to our Section, but it's clear that the most valuable part is the membership. NALP Connect continues to be a helpful tool to connect people and resources, and we are going to seek ways to build upon that and potentially increase the Resource section on the site. For these next few months though, the key focus for members will be on employment collection and reporting and getting the Spring semester going for student programming.