

NALP SMALL & SOLO CSO SECTION FINAL QUARTERLY REPORT

To: Tasha Everman, NALP Board Liaison

From: Jill Gerrard and Grace Roede, Section Co-Chairs

Cc: NALP Info

Date: March 25, 2026

Our section held its final meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2026. Seven people participated.

1. Leadership Team

Section Co-Chairs

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

Grace Roede, Campbell University School of Law, groede@campbell.edu

AEC/Bulletin+ and Webinar Planning Vice Chairs

Katherine Mikkelson, UNT Dallas College of Law, Katherine.Mikkelson@untdallas.edu

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

Grace Roede, Campbell University School of Law, groede@campbell.edu

Environmental Scanning Chair

Meredith Wiggins, Washburn University School of Law, Meredith.Wiggins@washburn.edu

Programming Best Practices Co-chairs

Laurie Dufoe, Drake University Law School, laurie.dufoe@drake.edu

Cathleen Creegan, University of Oklahoma College of Law, ccreegan@ou.edu

Well Being Chair

Casey Parker, Southern Illinois University, caseyparker@siu.edu

DEI Liaison

Sylvia James, VP Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at Winston & Strawn, SyJames@winston.com

2. Communication: Updates/Reminders

- A discussion was raised on Wellness Rooms at law schools
 - Casey Park (SIU) and Tasha Everman (Nebraska Law) shared updates regarding their school's wellness rooms. Both schools have created impressive spaces for students, including features such as green "living" plant walls, yoga mats, and calming environments designed to support student well-being.
 - This brought attention to 1) the intentional commitment some schools place on wellness and 2) the inequities between schools with more money / funding options to support the "nice to have" initiatives such as wellness spaces.

- Employers scheduling OCI and then Canceling
 - The question was asked whether any schools have formal OCI guidelines for employers around scheduling and canceling participation
 - The group discussed the importance of communicating with employers how cancellations can negatively impact students particularly when students have prepared extensively for interviews.
 - It was emphasized that maintaining employer reputations on campus is important, and employers should be encouraged to leave a positive and professional impression with students.

- Fundraising for Career Services – Sponsored Job Board Ads
 - One participant shared that their office is exploring fundraising ideas and asked whether schools use “sponsored ads” on their job boards (e.g., firms paying to have postings highlighted as a “Job of the Week”).
 - Some schools shared that law firms and corporations financially support career programming by sponsoring events such as Career Night, coffee carts, snack breaks, and similar initiatives.

- AEC Proposals and Bulletin+ Article Submissions
 - One of our conference proposals was accepted for the 2026 AEC conference *Beyond.the.Talking.Heads;Making.Waves.with.Law.Student.Engagement*, presented by Alisa Benedict O'Brien, Assistant Dean of Career Services, University of Akron School of Law, Tammy King, Assistant Dean for Professional Development, Washburn University School of Law Maria Comas, Assistant Dean of Career Services & Alumni Relations, Thomas R. Kline School of Law of Duquesne University
 - Upcoming article in NALP Connect, *Demystifying.JAG.Opportunities;How.Career.Advisors.Can.Confidently.Guide.Students.Toward.a.Unique.Legal.Path* by Jill Gerrard, Director University of Hawaii Richardson School of Law and Lily Arbuckle, former Career Counselor at UNT Dallas College of Law.

- Next Meeting
 - At the NALP ACE Conference in Florida on Thursday, April 16 at 1:00 pm.

- Recommendations
 - Helpful resources: Programming Best Practices for Co-Chairs
 - Additional Work Groups: Online PT-JD group - this group has been operating as an unofficial NALP group all year made up of CSO's that support online students - the Chair is Alison Finn, Director of Career Strategy at Case Western Reserve University School of Law