

NALP Small/Solo Section First 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: 10/11/2013

While this year has started off with a bang for me (and everyone else as well!), I remain excited about the work of the Section and the support we provide to each other. Things have been a bit quieter in terms of activity on NALP Connect through this early fall than they were over the summer, but there has been lots of individual activity within the section and sharing of resources amongst each other.

Below is a summary of key activities of the group since the Annual Meeting. Section members have been very enthusiastic, and the Vice-Chairs remain active and supportive.

A. Bulletin Articles

Maria Comas, our Vice-Chair in this area, did a great job of coordinating our submissions. The Solo/Small Section is contributing seven Bulletin articles this year!

B. Outreach

I receive notification of all new Section members, and then forward them to our Vice Chair for Outreach. Laura Weseley has been sending an individual welcome email to all new group members and is working on ideas on how we can expand membership as well by determining which schools fall within the size limitations but are not yet members.

C. Quarterly Call

We delayed the fall call just a bit to get through OCI for everyone, and our quarterly call was held on October 11. Attendance on the call was high, and participation was broad with active members from across the country and great discussion. Topics included:

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- Planning for NALP 2014
 - Fall 2013 OCI
 - Questions/issues/changes surrounding Oct 15 move
 - Follow-up on NALP Connect discussion regarding US News Request
 - Webinars
 - Effect of Government Shutdown on students/programming/interviews

For the next call, we have on the agenda judicial clerkships and employment survey steps we may be considering at our schools with the idea of a potential audit in the future. Additional items will surely be added as well, and the goal is to incorporate or follow-up on any past or on-going NALP Connect discussions as well.

One thing that did come up during the call was some potential confusion or uncertainty of what, if anything, the new 1L date for counseling changed.

Thanks to some comments by Vic, I think a lot of that was cleared up or at least made less confusing, but it was something that may benefit from some further explanation or detail should this trial period become permanent.

D. Upcoming Events/Plans

Over the next quarter I hope to work on expanding our resources section, coordinating with our Vice-Chair in this area, Lauren Donald. We already have a few ideas for topics for the next quarterly call, I think the focus on areas that we have either just wrapped up or are heading into really leads to some good discussion. Our Webinar Vice-Chair, Sonja Hayes, is going to be doing some follow-up contacts with members who had indicated interest in leading a webinar, with the goal of having at least one webinar in January/February.