

From: Sandee Magliozzi, NALP Law Student Professional Development Section Chair

CC: Fred Thrasher, NALP Deputy Director
Carol Sprague, NALP President 2010-2011

Date: 10/22/2010

Re: Law Student Professional Development Section Report

Summary

The section and work groups continue to move forward with their work as we head into our last quarter before the annual meeting. I am excited by the concrete work product that we are now seeing as a result of our efforts, which I will highlight here, but describe below. E-Professionalism and Social Networking are creating a series of e-Guides regarding social media for use as professional development guides by law schools and possibly law firms. Professionalism Standards is creating a project plan to identify and create “soft skills” training modules. Law Student and Lawyer Professional Development Sections Collaboration have completed its experiential learning survey with over 900 associates participating.

We conducted our quarterly section call on Jan. 26, 2011. Our participation on was very solid and the discussion robust. Each of the vice-chairs was able to update the section membership on work group progress and projects. We also discussed NALP’s Call for Volunteers and the additional opportunities to get involved. We followed up a request from last quarter’s call to learn more about different school’s mentoring programs or initiatives, and we took a quick environmental scan to learn about any issues that were emerging.

Our next section quarterly call is proposed for March 30, 2011.

Work Group Updates

1. E-Professionalism and Social Networking

E-Professionalism work group has been busy over the holiday break.

We are creating a series of e-Guides regarding social media for use as professional development guides by law schools and possibly law firms and other legal employers. We plan on publishing the downloadable e-Guides for member use on the NALP website and we hope members will be free to publish the guides on their blogs, websites, Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn pages (so long as NALP & the writer are properly credited). Vice Chairs Marina Feehan and Sandra Buteau will work with the NALP office about web posting and guidelines.

The goal is to have the e-Guides published by April 2011, when Sandra's and Marina's term as Vice-Chairs end.

The following work group members have generously contributed their time to write these e-Guides:

- Susanne Aronowitz, Golden Gate University: E-mail etiquette
- Heather DiFranco, Case Western Reserve Univ: Facebook for CSO's
- Tracy Evans & Gwen Ferrell, Louisiana State University: Managing your "Digital Dirt" (on-line reputation)
- Marina Sarmiento Feehan, University of San Francisco: LinkedIn
- Ellen Jones, Lewis & Clark University: Facebook for Law Students
- Tom Ksobiech, University of Alabama: Twitter

Additionally, Marina will be a speaker for the "Social Media Supercharged" panel at the 2011 Annual Education Conference talking about, using Twitter for professional branding for law schools and CSO staff.

2. Professionalism Standards

This work group lost one of its vice-chairs at year's end. Nancy Lochner stepped down from her position due to work demands. She lost a strategic administrative position and had her Assistant Director is out on disability. This left Nancy with an unforeseen extreme staff shortage and unexpected HR and personnel duties requiring significant time this spring.

Heather Karns remains in place. As we move toward the annual conference we are working with a group of about six section members to create a project plan for exploring ideas to identify and create "soft skills" training modules. We would hand the plan off to next year's work group for implementation because the group felt we need to get more feedback from practitioners about the soft skills they want to see and to work with additional sections for input. There may be an opportunity to work hand in hand with a membership committee to pull in small firms, businesses and larger organizations who appreciate those who have legal training for collaboration.

3. Law Student and Lawyer Professional Development Sections Collaboration

The experiential learning survey has been conducted. We had 930 associates complete or partially complete the survey. Judy Collins did preliminary analyses and Tammy Patterson started reviewing and organizing in preparation for writing the initial report. Jim Leipold and Tammy Patterson spoke about some next steps and a rough timeline for distributing the data and Tammy forward those to the work group. At this point a draft of Executive Summary was provided to work group for review. We agreed that our work group Vice-Chairs Kris Butler (Lawyer PD Section) and Meg Reuter (Student PD) will write the introduction for the summary by Feb 20th.

The proposed timeline for next steps is as follows:

- Week of February 28 – Tammy will provide full written report to Jim, Judy and section work group for review and edits. The full report will be in PDF format and offered free of charge to NALP membership.
- February 28 – March 11 – Conduct free webinar through NALP website on findings. We need to select an exact date and have lead time to advertise in NALPNow. Webinar could be presented by Tammy and/or members of the working group.
- We also discussed the possibility of someone from the working group writing an article for the NALP *Bulletin*. Gillian Murray reserved space in the April 2011 issue for an article on the survey results on behalf of the lawyer PD section if we are ready. Tammy also indicated there is space in the July issue if more time is needed.
- The working group will also consider submitting an RFP around the study for the 2012 Annual Conference or the 2011 PDI conference.

Bulletin Articles

March Bulletin”

Leveraging Externship Opportunities to Provide the Benchmark Experiences and Skills for Practice, Sandee Magliozzi and Susan Beneville.

Environmental Scan

The themes remain the same with increased volume of CSO offices at the top of the list as additional requests for student counseling, requests from alumni, and/or staff reductions continue to have impact. Also several members mentioned challenges dealing with graduate and student attitudes around finding ideal jobs and how to encourage flexibility with respect to compensation, practice area and geography.