

NALP LAWYER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SECTION

Quarterly Report to the Board of Directors
February 7, 2011
Gillian Murray, Bryan Cave LLP, Section Chair

SUMMARY

The third quarter of the 2010-2011 NALP year was a significant one for the section. The NALP Foundation distributed the Survey on Law School Experiential Learning that arose from our collaborative work group with the Law School PD section. In December, NALP's annual Professional Development Institute (PDI) took place, with an increase in both presenters and attendees over the 2009 version. The status of these initiatives, and others, is detailed below.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (PDI)

The annual Professional Development Institute was held on December 8-9, 2010. This year, the program consisted of 65 speakers and attracted 214 participants, a significant increase from the 2009 event (51 speakers and 154 attendees).

A conference evaluation was distributed to attendees after the event. Based on feedback, the section has determined that the following session topics merit consideration for three NALP webinars to take place in March, July and October, and will be contacting the speakers shortly. Our top three choices are listed first:

- *Using Adult Education Insights to Improve your Programs* (Maria Alkiewicz, David Cruickshank, Jennifer Queen)
- *Budgeting and Financial Savvy for the PD Professional* (Kay Nash, JD Neary, Colleen O'Hara)
- *Training More Lawyers in More Offices with Fewer Resources: Videoconference and Other Distance Learning Solutions* (Marsha Redmond)
- *Connecting the Strategic Goals of Your Law Firm and Its Clients to Your PD Program* (Wally Martinez, Tammy Patterson, Caren Stacy*)
- *Just Do It! Strategies to Make Your In-House Training More Experiential and Effective* (Steve Hughes)
- *How to Help Associates Proactively Manage Their Careers: Building an Associate Development Plan Process* (Jeanna Beck, Jennifer Johnson)

In addition, a feature article on the event (*Hope and Change Emerge Amid a Profoundly Altered Landscape*) was authored by Amy Hancock of Andrews Kurth and appeared in the February 2011 issue of the NALP Bulletin.

SURVEY OF LAW SCHOOL EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

The experiential learning survey arising from our collaborative work group with the Law School Professional Development was distributed by the NALP Foundation in November 2010 and received nearly 1000 responses, most of which were from attorneys in Illinois, Texas, and Washington DC. It asked about the value of three types of learning:

1. Clinics (law students work with a “live” client)
2. Externships (law students are placed with either a firm or a judge’s chambers)
3. Practice Skills (law students participate in mock trials and oral argument programs)

Results included the following highlights:

- While 70% of associates reported participation in a law school practice skills program, only about a third participated in either a clinic or externship. However, the latter experiences were ranked at the top of the ratings scale (4 or “very useful”) by over 60% of respondents. Only 40% rated skills program at their schools as “very useful.”
- Law firms have long encouraged pro bono work to develop practice skills. Not only is such work not required at the vast majority of schools, of those students performing pro bono work, nearly 60% said they put in less than 40 hours during their entire law school tenure. Additionally, students performing pro bono work ranked its usefulness much lower than the other “live” experiences of clinics and externships (2 on the value scale).
- The draft of the survey’s Executive Summary was distributed to the work group for their review at the end of January 2011. It is expected that the full report will be available no later than March 1, 2011 with a NALP Bulletin article and webinar to follow.

BULLETIN ARTICLES & WEBINARS

Articles — Our planned article on the Professional Development Institute appeared in the February 2011 issue (see above). In addition, the author of a declined conference proposal accepted our invitation to adapt her topic for the NALP Bulletin, and this also appeared in the February 2011 issue (*How to Coach Partners to Be Better Trainers in 4 Easy Steps*). There will also be an article published in conjunction with the law school survey as noted.

Webinars— In addition to the webinar that Tammy Patterson is planning to conduct on the results of the law school learning survey, we hope to schedule 2-3 more throughout 2011.

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In conclusion, the Lawyer Professional Development Section thanks NALP for its ongoing support and expertise, and welcomes any feedback from the Board of Directors.

