



**A TEMPLATE FOR AN  
EMERGING CAREERS  
WEEK**



**PREPARED BY  
JD ADVANTAGE  
WORK GROUP**

# WHY EMERGING CAREERS WEEK

NALP describes Emerging Careers/JD Advantage jobs as “those for which the employer sought an individual with a JD, and perhaps even required a JD, or for which the JD provided a demonstrable advantage in obtaining or performing the job, but are jobs that do not require bar passage, an active law license, or involve practicing law.”

These JD Advantage jobs are becoming increasingly popular among law students who may find the traditional practice of law undesirable.

The JD Advantage Work Group came together to work on several initiatives during the 2020-2021 academic year to continue the exposure of our law students to non-traditional legal careers.

One idea is the creation of an “Emerging Careers Week” – a uniform week of programming where a law school highlights non-traditional careers. This proposal offers a blueprint for what that week could look like.



The proposed Emerging Careers Week would include various information sessions and panels designed to 1) introduce and expose law students to JD Advantage Careers, 2) connect students with law school grads who work in non-traditional spaces, and 3) provide opportunities to meet other students also interested in exploring the JD Advantage market.

Below is a draft outline of each day of the Emerging Careers Week.



### INFO SESSION

Goal: Introduce students to JD Advantage/Emerging Careers

Conversation Topics

- What does JD Advantage mean?
- Is this a growing area? (highlight stats)
- Provide examples of jobs – Guess the JDA/Bar Job activity
- How do I find JDA jobs/internships?
- What if I'm not sure?
- Introduce resources e.g. NALP JDA Career Guide

Speakers: Internal – Career Services

External – NALP JDA Work Group members



### ATTORNEY PANEL

Goal: Highlight lawyers/law school grads working in JDA roles

Conversation Topics

- What was your path to your current role?
- How was/is law school or a license helpful? Benefits/challenges of your role?
- How do you balance being a lawyer in a non-traditional role? Would you consider still practicing?
- Can you still earn a good living (\$) in JDA market?
- Advice for students thinking about non-traditional paths?

Speakers: Alumni of your law school and/or non-traditional practitioners in various areas from JDA Guide (3-4 panelists)



### STUDENT PANEL

Goal: Highlight law students/peers who have or are currently interning in a JDA role

#### Conversation Topics

- What interested you in your non-traditional internship? How did you find it?
- What has your experience been like? What types of responsibilities did/do you have?
- How is being a law student and having legal training helpful? Are you considering a non-traditional path after law school? If so, what are your interests?
- Advice for other students

Speakers: Current students who have or are currently in non-traditional legal internships (3-4 panelists)



### ATTORNEY PANEL 2

Goal: Highlight lawyers/law school grads working in JDA roles in different areas/industries from the first panel.

#### Conversation Topics

- What was your path to your current role?
- How was/is law school or a license helpful? Benefits/challenges of your role?
- How do you balance being a lawyer in a non-traditional role? Would you consider still practicing?
- Can you still earn a good living (\$) in JDA market?
- Advice for students thinking about non-traditional paths?

Speakers: Alumni of your law school and/or non-traditional practitioners in various areas from JDA Guide (3-4 panelists)



### JDA CAREER FAIR / NETWORKING EVENT

Goal: To combine Emerging Careers Week with other initiatives of the NALP JDA Work Group. Friday of the week would be reserved for either students attending a regional JDA career fair or hosting a career expo at your respective law school.

Alternatively, schools could host a networking event or reception as a culminating activity.

# CLOSING THOUGHTS

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The design of Emerging Careers Week is not meant to be exhaustive. Schools should feel free adjust programming as necessary to fit their needs and capacity. For example, perhaps one school only hosts one attorney panel instead of two. Maybe another school puts themes to the panels – a sports/entertainment/media careers panel? How about non-traditional careers in Higher Education (Title IX, Diversity, Administration, Career Services)? The possibilities are endless.

The overarching goal here is to highlight and bring awareness to emerging legal careers. This will give students more options and a broader outlook on job opportunities when they graduate and enter the workforce.

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