

EQUAL JUSTICE WORKS-NALP COLLABORATION

As always, Equal Justice Works continues to work closely with the NALP Public Service Section.

Members of our team participated in the 2014 Annual Education Conference, and presented on two panels: *Financial and Career Management: Help Students Surmount the Burden of Debt* and *Public Service Job Fairs: A Roadmap for Law School Professionals*. And we have submitted a workshop proposal for next year's conference.

We currently are coordinating with PSJD on cross-programming and promotion of the 2014 NALP/PSJD mini-conference and the Equal Justice Works Conference and Career Fair, and we are active participants in NALP Public Service Section Work Groups.

EQUAL JUSTICE WORKS FELLOWSHIPS

Each year the Equal Justice Works fellowship competition selects qualified and passionate lawyers who have developed new and innovative legal projects that can impact lives and serve communities in desperate need of legal assistance. Depending on funding, we are able to provide between 45-55 two-year fellowships annually. Fellows receive a competitive salary, generous loan repayment assistance, connections to their prominent sponsors, participation in trainings, and additional support during their two-year tenure.

This year, we have been able to fund 60 fellows, who will begin their fellowships in the fall of 2014.

The application for 2015 Fellowships will open on July 7, 2014 and close on Sept. 17, 2014. Throughout the application period, Equal Justice Works' Fellowships Team will be hosting interactive webinars to offer tips on successful applications. More information on our webinars and the application process can be found on our [website](#).

EQUAL JUSTICE WORKS AMERICORPS PROGRAMS

Employment Opportunity Legal Corps (EOLC)

Equal Justice Works recently was awarded a second grant from AmeriCorps to fund lawyers and students working on removing barriers to employment through our Employment Opportunity Legal Corps (EOLC). The grant provides funds for 40 attorneys and 360 law students to work on issues like expunging minor criminal records, obtaining driver's licenses and keeping occupational licenses.

We currently are engaged in the process of selecting host sites for the 40 postgraduate fellowships. **Postgraduate positions will be posted later this summer, for fellows who will begin this fall.**

Veterans Legal Corps (VLC)

We are entering the second year of our three-year grant funding attorneys and law students focused on working with veterans and military families. This grant provides funding for 40 attorneys and 360 law students working with veterans and military families, and victims of disasters.

Many of our postgraduate fellows are renewing for a second term, but we may have additional positions opening up late this summer. **Any open positions will be announced late this summer, for terms to begin this fall.**

AmeriCorps JD

Our two AmeriCorps grants (VLC and EOLC) fund a total of 720 AmeriCorps JD positions. AmeriCorps JD members expand the delivery of critically needed legal assistance in low-income and underserved communities across the country. Law students have the opportunity to serve a minimum of 300 hours as an AmeriCorps member and receive a \$1,175 education award at the end of their service.

While the majority of students participate in AmeriCorps JD during the summer, funding is available during the fall and spring semesters, as well. This year, funding will prioritize students working with veterans and military families, and those working to remove barriers to employment. However, we will continue to have summer slots available for students working on broader civil legal issues.

The application for the AmeriCorps JD fall term will open this August. Information on our program and applying will be available on [Equal Justice Works' website](#).

NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NAC)

The Equal Justice Works National Advisory Committee (NAC) provides leadership, advice and outreach assistance to support Equal Justice Works in mobilizing the next generation of public interest attorneys. The NAC convenes a diverse group of law students and law school professionals to act as Equal Justice Works ambassadors within the law school and legal services communities and assist with the implementation of initiatives.

We recently welcomed seven new members to our NAC, three law school professionals and four students, who will begin their term July 1.

CONFERENCE AND CAREER FAIR (CCF)

Each year, the Equal Justice Works Conference and Career Fair brings together 1,200 law students and more than 125 public interest employers from around the country for the largest national public interest legal career fair in the country. Last year, more than two thirds of our attendees were offered positions!

The Equal Justice Works 2014 Conference and Career Fair will be held Friday, October 24 and Saturday, October 25 at the Bethesda North Marriott Hotel & Conference Center. We are coordinating with PSJD on cross-programming and promotion for law school professionals attending CCF and the NALP/PSJD mini-conference.

Student and Law School Professional registration for CCF will begin August 12.

Information and ongoing updates are [available here](#).

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Equal Justice Works seeks to get law students engaged on campuses across the country to ensure every student has an opportunity to make their own connection between law school and equal justice. Through our student engagement initiative, we are continuing to connect with law students to engage them in existing public interest opportunities, and work together to develop new opportunities.

EDUCATIONAL DEBT RELIEF

The burden of student debt prevents many law school graduates from pursuing and remaining in public interest careers. Equal Justice Works' [Student Debt Relief program](#) advocates for student debt relief and provides law students, law schools and legal organizations with detailed information on how powerful debt relief programs like income-driven repayment plans and Public Service Loan Forgiveness can help.

The most important new development on the student debt front is President Obama's budget [proposal](#) to cap Public Service Loan Forgiveness at the aggregate loan limit for independent undergraduate students.

Fortunately, this component of the President's budget proposal was not considered by Congress. However, the Higher Education Act (HEA) is up for reauthorization and this provides a vehicle for implementing these proposals. Since June 2013, the full House of Representatives Committee on Education and the Workforce and the Subcommittee on Education and Workforce Training have held 14 hearings on the topic of "Keeping College Within Reach." The committee is likely to produce draft legislation by early summer. We have been tracking events on the Hill and meeting with allies to discuss strategies for opposing proposed caps.

President Obama also recently signed an executive order to extend the benefits of the Pay As You Earn repayment plan to those who borrowed loans prior to 2007, which would offer tremendous relief to graduates' student debt burden by limiting their monthly payments to 10 percent of their income. There will be upcoming rulemaking on this extension of the program, and we are working to ensure the voice of law students and graduates is included.

Our student debt e-book, [Take Control of Your Future: A Guide to Managing Your Student Debt](#) is the most comprehensive step-by-step guide to managing student debt in the marketplace.

It is available in the [Kindle Store](#) and can be read on any Kindle device (including Amazon's [free reading apps](#)).

Every month, Equal Justice Works provides [free, interactive webinars](#) on student debt relief. NALP members can sign up for a scheduled webinar, view a recording of a previous one or contact us to arrange a webinar just for their organization.

Equal Justice Works staff are also available to make in-person presentation for NALP members on their current options for student debt relief.