



MEMORANDUM

To: Stacey Kielbasa, NALP Immediate Past President
Fred Thrasher, NALP Deputy Director
Cybele Smith, NALP Board Liaison, Public Service Section

From: Veronica Paricio, NALP Liaison to Equal Justice Works

Date: March 31, 2015

Re: NALP Liaison to Equal Justice Works Quarterly Report

I am in regular communication with the staff at Equal Justice Works. My primary contact is Isaac Bowers, Associate Director for Law School Engagement & Advocacy.

EQUAL JUSTICE WORKS-NALP COLLABORATION

As always, Equal Justice Works continues to work closely with the NALP Public Service Section. They are active participants in NALP Public Service Section Work Groups, and will be presenting on student debt at the 2015 NALP Annual Conference.

Equal Justice Works is grateful to NALP and PSJD for helping promote our programs, including postgraduate fellowships, AmeriCorps JD and student debt programs.

EQUAL JUSTICE WORKS AMERICORPS PROGRAMS

AmeriCorps JD

The AmeriCorps JD program provides law students with the opportunity to earn a **\$1,212 Segal AmeriCorps Education Award** for dedicating 300 hours of service to a qualifying legal project with a nonprofit program or other qualifying organization. The program will provide the education award to 720 students this year.

Priority will be given to applications from students who serve veterans, military families, victims of disasters, or who focus on removing barriers to employment or housing. However, Equal Justice Works also has many spots available for students working with other populations and in other areas of law.

All applications are due by **April 15, 2015**. Please visit <http://equaljusticeworks.org/law-school/amicorpsjd> to learn more and apply or contact amicorpsjd@equaljusticeworks.org.

justice AmeriCorps

The justice AmeriCorps program administered by Equal Justice Works provides 55 full-time lawyers and paralegals to help children, who have crossed the U.S. border without a parent or guardian, navigate complex immigration court proceedings. Their partners include the Catholic Legal Immigration Network (CLINIC), Kids in Need of Defense (KIND), and the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI).

A limited number of lawyer positions remain, but the majority of the first class of lawyers and paralegals has begun their service at organizations throughout the country. More information on open positions is available at JoinJusticeAmeriCorps.org.

Save the Date! – 2015 Equal Justice Works Annual Dinner

The Equal Justice Works Annual Dinner will be the evening of Tuesday, October 20, 2015, at the Renaissance Washington, D.C. Hotel. Each year Equal Justice Works hosts an annual dinner to honor a lawyer whose career exemplifies the values that Equal Justice Works holds dear. The honorees demonstrate the compassion, dedication, and commitment to equal justice that Equal Justice Works works to cultivate and promote among the next generation of public interest lawyers. This year Equal Justice Works is excited to honor Brackett B. Denniston III, Senior Vice President and General Counsel of General Electric (GE) with the 2015 Scales Justice Award.

Please join them in honoring Brackett Denniston on an unforgettable night! For more information concerning the Annual Dinner, contact Mizue Suito at msuito@equaljusticeworks.org.

2015 Leadership Development Training

Equal Justice Works has 250 legal Fellows in the field. Equal Justice Works will have Leadership Development Training for these Fellows from October 20-22, 2015 at the Renaissance Washington, D.C. Hotel. For more information, contact LDT@equaljusticeworks.org.

VISTA Affordable Housing Preservation Project

The VISTA Affordable Housing Preservation Project (VAHPP) is a partnership with the National Alliance of HUD Tenants (NAHT). The program focuses on the provision of community organizing and legal services for tenants living in HUD Project Based Section 8 buildings.

Many of the VAHPP Legal Fellows and Community Organizers have been hired at organizations throughout the country. Twenty-seven members began their service in February, and the remaining eighteen will begin in April. Both lawyer and organizer members will attend the NAHT conference in Washington, D.C. in June 2015. The NAHT conference will focus on organizing strategies and the intersection between lawyers and tenants in securing decent and affordable housing. More information about the program and available positions can be found on at <http://equaljusticeworks.org/post-grad/VAHPP>.

Employment Opportunity Legal Corps and Veterans Legal Corps

Equal Justice Works has partnered with AmeriCorps to create Veterans Legal Corps (40 lawyers helping homeless veterans) and Employment Opportunity Legal Corps (40 lawyers helping primarily to expunge misdemeanor records that block clients from employment). Postgraduate fellowship positions for Veterans Legal Corps and Employment Opportunity Legal Corps will be open in July. Interested applicants can apply directly to host sites which will be listed on <http://www.equaljusticeworks.org/post-grad/ameri-corps-legal-fellowships> and on www.psjd.org.

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. The program 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 (PSLF) can help. Equal Justice Works offers a free e-book, as well as monthly webinars, which can be found on <http://equaljusticeworks.org/ed-debt> along with other resources. Equal Justice Works also launched a new blog on the Huffington Post, <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/equal-justice-works/>.

While Equal Justice Works hears from countless borrowers about what a critical support PSLF is for those pursuing public interest legal careers, there is currently little hard data on program's users and its impact. The FY16 proposed budget from the administration contemplates capping PSLF at the independent undergraduate loan limit (currently \$57,500). The House Republican budget assumes the elimination of the program. **You can help show the impact PSLF has on your career plans by [filling out and sharing this very quick survey](#).** When Equal Justice Works asks Congress to preserve this essential program, the data gathered by the survey will be vital to support our proposal.

CONFERENCE AND CAREER FAIR

The 2014 Conference and Career Fair was a great success. More than 140 employers, 1,200 law students and recent graduates, and 120 law school professionals attended for two days of interviews, networking and topical workshops. The employers included legal aid organizations, public defender and district attorney offices, nonprofits, federal and local government agencies, and private firms – **interviewing for more than 1,300 openings.**

The Equal Justice Works 2015 Conference and Career Fair will be held Friday, October 23 and Saturday, October 24 at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, Virginia.

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Equal Justice Works seeks to engage law students on campuses across the country to ensure every student has an opportunity to make their own connection between law school and equal justice. Through their student engagement initiative, Equal Justice Works connects with law students to engage them in existing public interest opportunities, and to help them develop new opportunities.

Interested law students can sign up at <http://equaljusticeworks.org/law-school/engaging-students> to learn more about their work, and get more involved in promoting public interest opportunities on campuses nationwide.

NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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 who help us engage with more member schools and students across the country.

Law students and law school professionals can now apply for positions on the NAC! The application is open until 11:59 p.m. EDT on Thursday, April 30. [Learn more and download an application](#) on their website.

EQUAL JUSTICE WORKS FELLOWSHIPS

Each year the Equal Justice Works Fellowship competition selects qualified and passionate lawyers who have developed innovative legal projects that serve communities in desperate need of legal assistance. Fellows receive a competitive salary, generous loan repayment assistance, connections to prominent sponsors, unique training opportunities, and additional support during their two-year tenure.

Interviews are currently taking place between Fellow candidates and potential sponsors for the 2015 Equal Justice Works Fellowship class. The 2015 class will be finalized and announced in early summer. The application for the 2016 Equal Justice Works Fellowship will be open from July through September.

If you have questions about this opportunity or Equal Justice Works Fellowships in general, please visit their website, <http://equaljusticeworks.org/post-grad/equal-justice-works-fellowships>, or contact Carolyn Schorr at fellowships@equaljusticeworks.org.