



Roger Williams University
SCHOOL OF LAW

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MEMORANDUM

To: Charlotte Wager, NALP Immediate Past President
Fred Thrasher, NALP Deputy Director
Nicole Vikan, NALP Board Liaison, Public Service Section
Meghan Grenda, NALP Member Services Manager

From: Veronica Paricio, NALP Liaison to Equal Justice Works

Date: October 15, 2013

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 Nita Mazumder, Program Manager for Law School Relations.

AMERICORPS, J.D.

Equal Justice Works is proud to announce the new AmeriCorps, J.D. program for law students. Modeled after the past SummerCorps program, law students will 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. Unlike the SummerCorps program, AmeriCorps, J.D. allows law students to start at any time and serve all year long, as long as they finish their 300 hours of service by August 31, 2014. The AmeriCorps, J.D. program for 2013-2014 is a part of the Veterans Legal Corps, requiring law students' to serve either veterans or victims of disaster throughout the year, or for projects/internships beginning in May or June 2014. Equal Justice Works will consider other public interest projects as long as the law student completes a 60-hour veterans' tool-kit. Students may apply for the program at <https://info.equaljusticeworks.org/summercorps/login.asp>. For more information, email AmeriCorpsJD@equaljusticeworks.org.

CONFERENCE AND CAREER FAIR (CCF)

The Conference and Career Fair bring together law students, law school professionals and public interest legal employers from across the country for two days of job interviews, networking and workshops. This year will be the largest CCF to date, with 137 public interest law employers interviewing for 1,000 openings. They are excited that several law schools have chosen to sponsor CCF this year, a real testament to their dedication to public interest. And, of course, Equal Justice Works is pleased to once again partner with NALP to cosponsor the networking break for employers and law school professionals. Thank you!

There are three avenues of workshops this year at CCF: Public Interest Careers, Skills Development and Timely Topics. In conjunction with National Pro Bono Week, and for the first time, the CCF is providing a pro bono opportunity for law students. They are hosting a student meeting to discuss building support for public interest programming, and panels on law school pro bono for students and law school professionals. The keynote speaker this year is U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder. They are happy to have quite a few NALP members as panelists at the Conference and they anticipate another large turnout from law school professionals and law students. More details about CCF are available on the Equal Justice Works website.

EDUCATIONAL DEBT RELIEF

The burden of student debt prevents many law school graduates from pursuing and remaining in public interest careers. The [Educational Debt Relief & Outreach](#) 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 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](#)).
- Over the last quarter, Equal Justice Works has made in-person student debt presentations at conferences, law schools and public interest employers in Atlanta, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Cincinnati, Louisville and Washington, D.C. to name just a few. They are available to make visits to NALP members.
- Every month they provide [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 responded recently in their [Student Loan Ranger blog](#) to inaccurate criticisms made by the New America Foundation that Georgetown Law is using income-driven repayment plans and Public Service Loan Forgiveness to make federal taxpayers cover the cost of its loan repayment assistance program (LRAP). Equal Justice Works is happy to help other NALP members respond if their LRAPs face similar criticisms.
- As always, Equal Justice Works continues to work closely with the NALP Public Service Section, especially the LRAP Work Group.

FELLOWSHIPS

For twenty years, Equal Justice Works has provided postgraduate fellowship opportunities for new lawyers seeking a career in public interest law. More than 1,100 attorneys started their careers with two-year Equal Justice Works Fellowships, providing critical legal services to underrepresented individuals and communities across the country, and more than 80 percent of these lawyers stayed in public interest law after their fellowships. Thanks to the generosity of law firms, corporations, bar associations and other private funders, there are currently 107 Equal Justice Works Fellows in the field addressing a wide variety of legal needs, including children's rights, education, civil rights, domestic violence, human trafficking, immigration, and veterans' rights, just to name a few. The application window for fellowships beginning in 2014 has closed. Information about the 2015 program may be found at www.equaljusticeworks.org/post-grad/equal-justice-works-fellowships. The application period will open in July 2014 and close in mid-September. For more information, email fellowships@equaljusticeworks.org.

LAW SCHOOL PRO BONO

Equal Justice Works is continuing to pursue ways to build support and resources for law students to engage in pro bono, and to stress the public service component and purpose of pro bono. They are hosting a three-part webinar series for law school professionals on developing or adjusting law school pro bono programs, which will run from Oct. – Nov. The panelists consist of law school professionals from schools with varying levels of resources and models of programs, as well as external partners from legal services providers. These webinars provide a space for collaboration and practical information and advice. They are also hosting two panels on law school pro bono at the Conference and Career Fair: one for law school professionals (given by

law school professionals), and one for law students, at which the panelists will be students who run or administer pro bono programs at their schools, as well as two law school professionals who will help inform students about the recent state action on requirements for bar admission. Also this year, as the fall events coincide with the ABA's Celebration of Pro Bono Week, they have incorporated a law student pro bono project into the Conference and Career Fair programming. Through collaboration with the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), students will have the opportunity to attend a forum on the current state of immigration law and potential immigration reform given by AILA members, after which they will gain some hands-on experience by shadowing attorneys as they meet with members of immigrant communities.

NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NAC)

Equal Justice Works has welcomed eight new members to their NAC. NAC members are important liaisons to the law school community and provide guidance and feedback as they build their programs and work to expand public interest opportunities for law students and lawyers. They have NAC law school professional and law student members in each region of the country. To learn who the NAC representatives are and how to contact them, please email membership@equaljusticeworks.org.

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

This year, Equal Justice Works is launching a new initiative to connect directly with students. With this initiative, they hope to build student contacts at law schools across the country, so that they can provide programming and help them secure the resources they need to build opportunities for public service and successful public interest careers, as well as encourage every student to find some way to engage in service. With the critical help of the law school contacts, Equal Justice Works was able to launch a mass outreach campaign to incoming students this fall and survey students on the types of programs that were of interest to them, such as learning about managing student debt and finding public service employment. They are continuing to build contacts and conduct broad outreach, hosting a student meeting during the Conference and Career Fair in October and reaching out to students at campuses they visit across the country. Schools can bring representatives from Equal Justice Works to speak about the different programs and discuss public interest programming at schools in general. Questions, comments and requests for visits should be sent to students@equaljusticeworks.org.