



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: January 14, 2014

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 Engagement and Advocacy.

AMERICORPS, J.D.

Equal Justice Works has some updates for the AmeriCorps, J.D. program for law students that was introduced in the most recent NALP Board report. 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. 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. Law students are strongly encouraged to focus on projects that provide service to either veterans or victims of disaster, and can apply by January 15 for a spring semester project, or by April 15, 2014 for service during the summer. Equal Justice Works will consider other public interest projects as long as the law student completes a 60-hour veterans' tool-kit, although those projects/internships will only be accepted for the summer term. Students may apply for the program at <https://info.equaljusticeworks.org/summercorps/login.asp>. For more information, email AmeriCorpsJD@equaljusticeworks.org or visit www.equaljusticeworks.org/americorpsjd

CONFERENCE AND CAREER FAIR (CCF)

The Equal Justice Works 2013 Conference and Career Fair (CCF), sponsored by Georgetown Law and Stanford Law School, brought 1,200 students and recent graduates from 140 law schools to Washington, D.C. for two days of interviews and networking with 138 public interest employers from 28 states. 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 1,000 openings.

A great highlight from this year's event was the keynote session, when the Honorable Ann Claire Williams of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit interviewed U.S. Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. Judge Williams and Attorney General Holder discussed his life of public service before a packed room of interested students, law school professionals and members of the media.

Prior to CCF in October, two webinars offered students tips from law school professionals on job searches and applications, and advice from CCF employers on interviewing and networking. Various sessions were also offered during the event to further prepare students for a public interest career. Students had

opportunities for mock interviews and resume and cover letter review. The workshop sessions offered to students, recent graduates and law school professionals covered:

- public interest legal career options – government, international, plaintiff’s counsel, and more;
- skills building – starting and managing a nonprofit and personal branding; and
- timely topics – law student pro bono, comprehensive immigration reform and student debt.

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.

- Equal Justice Works has been working with the office of Rep. Frederica Wilson (FL-24) on a comprehensive bill of rights for student loan borrowers intended to help ensure America's higher education system remains a force for social mobility and shared prosperity.

For public service workers, the bill provides partial forgiveness of student debt after only five years in the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program. It also restores bankruptcy protections for federal and private student loans, establishes a statute of limitations on debt collection, and prohibits the garnishment of wages, tax refunds, and Social Security benefits. The bill also includes vital protections against discrimination in professional licensing on the basis of student loan repayment status and provisions to give America’s student borrowers greater purchasing power that will stimulate economic recovery and job creation.

To have your organization co-sponsor the Student Borrowers’ Bill of Rights, please contact Justin Talbot Zorn at Justin.Zorn@mail.house.gov.

- 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](#)).
- 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 members are also available to make in-person presentation for NALP members on their current options for student debt relief.
- As always, Equal Justice Works continues to work closely with the NALP Public Service Section, especially the LRAP Work Group.

NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NAC)

Equal Justice Works recently held a conference call with the NAC for a post CCF debrief and explanation of and assistance with outreach as to the new AmeriCorps, J.D. program. NAC members will assist as to recruitment of law school professionals, students and host site organizations. Equal Justice Works is using the NAC more proactively this year to help with select initiatives like these. Members of the NAC held an informal meeting during the Conference and Career Fair. The next annual meeting will be held in the summer of 2014 at the offices of Equal Justice Works.

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Equal Justice Works seeks to get law students engaged on campuses across the country. One way they are engaging students is in the ABA law student pro bono campaign, which encourages law students across the country to ask the ABA to adopt an aspirational goal for law schools to promote students' participation in 50 hours of pro bono service during law school. These experiences instill the value and commitment of pro bono that lasts throughout their careers, and Equal Justice Works believes law students can make a difference.