

NALP BOARD LIAISON REPORT: PLANC (March 2021)

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Organization: Pre-Law Advisors National Council (PLANC)

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Report any meetings, webinars, calls or conferences with organizations you have attended in the last 3 months/ Report any notable information or project of interest to NALP/NALP members:

On October 13, Jim and I presented on the legal market to MAPLA (Midwest Association of Pre-Law Advisers) as part of the MAPLA's annual conference. During the Q&A we answered a range of questions, primarily related to debt management, DEI, and the general market.

On October 23, I attended (virtually) PLANC's Fall Board Meeting.

- During the meeting I presented a (very) condensed version of the October 13 presentation referenced above. I also highlighted several NALP resources that may be valuable to pre-law advisers, including the pre-law advisers portal on the NALP website.
- AccessLex highlights:
 - Expanding online resources for students considering going to law school.
 - Expanding its LexScholars program to capture students who take a gap between undergrad and law school.
 - Partnering with ABA (YLS Division) to provide to law school applicants greater information on the impact of debt.
- LSAC highlights:
 - Currently providing forums online and in-person. In-person attendance has varied based upon location. The long-term plan is to provide complimentary in-person and online events, as opposed to having students chose between one or the other.
 - One positive outcome of COVID restrictions on in-person events has been controlling student flow. Students must participate in a workshop on the admissions process, DEI, and debt before they can meet with law school representatives. In the past, many students skipped the presentation.
 - Law school applications are currently up double-digits, though LSAC believes this will flatten soon. Moreover, there are concerns about the application-to-admittance conversion rate as so many schools have a large number of deferrals from the prior admissions cycle.

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- APLAs and PLANC highlights:
 - The APLAs are all seeing a high level of turnover in their ranks. Depending on school policies, there have been challenges in attending in-person Caravan events, as well as APLA meetings.
 - PLANC continues to work on ways to provide services for community college pre-law advisers. This challenge has existed for years and while the need is clear (an absence of data or resources for supporting CC students, especially diverse and under-represented populations), there is a lack of clarity regarding the desired delivery mechanisms.
 - PLANC is exploring how to best deliver online content that is accessible to individuals with a range of disabilities.

Report any goals suggested for the next year:

I previously reported on conversations with a WAPLA member about organizing regional online panel programming to help identify for pre-law advisers ways they can best assist pre-law students prepare in advance for the law school job search, *e.g.*, soft skills development, practice area exploration, networking, job shadowing and the like. Related programming could involve pre-law advisers advising law school career services professionals on areas of support that incoming law students may need/knowledge gaps to address. My WAPLA contact has moved on from his current role, though I hope to revive discussions on this initiative.