

To: NALP Board of Directors
From: Karen Comstock, Chair, NALP Public Service Section
Date: July 2, 2008
Re: First Quarterly Report

The Public Service Section held its annual meeting at the NALP Conference in Toronto on Keystone, CO on April 17, 2008. The minutes of that meeting were provided to NALP President, Mike Gotham, and Deputy Director, Fred Thrasher, immediately after the NALP Conference. These minutes were also shared with the Public Service Section E-Mail Discussion List.

WORK GROUP REPORTS

NALP Annual Conference Program Proposals

Work Group Members: *Andrew Chapin - Fordham University Law School (Chair), Lauren Dubin – Georgetown, Paula Nailon – University of Arizona, Tari Williams – University of Alabama*

Our section submitted the following nine proposals:

1. A Report on the New Guide to Student Practice Rules: Boosting Practical Skills Training in Government and Public Interest Settings
2. Beyond the Mentoring Program: Creative Uses of Alumni to Strengthen a Law School's Public Interest Program
3. Counseling for Public Interest Careers from 1L to Retirement
4. From Student to Young Associate: Keeping the Pro Bono Ethos Vibrant
5. Hot Topic Discussion for Public Service Section
6. Policy Careers: Counseling for Careers Beyond Litigation
7. Public Service Loan Forgiveness and More!
8. Reporting and Tracking Law School Pro Bono Data
9. The Equal Justice Works E-Guide to Public Service at America's Law Schools

Publications

Work Group Members: *Marni Lennon - University of Miami School of Law (Chair), Tia Barnes - Duke, Kate Corcoran - University of Washington, Michelle Vodenik – Chicago Kent, Teresa Schmiedeler, University of Maryland, Tari Williams, University of Alabama, Paula Nailon, University of Arizona*

Work Group members had a conference call on Wednesday, May 28, and they are vinalizing the submission of several proposals, ranging from substantive topics to counseling methodologies.

1. Sponsored Split Public Interest Summer Opportunities
2. CCRAA Loan Forgiveness for Public Service Employment and the Continued Need for Law School LRAPs
3. Predicting Outcomes: What Makes a Public Interest Lawyer? Academics vs. Activities
4. Transitioning from Public Interest Attorney to Public Interest Career Advisor
5. Job Mobility Between the Public and Private Sectors
6. Civil Justice, Inc.: Model for Low Bono Legal Services
7. Leadership Skills: How to Give Your Students a Step Up in the Workplace
8. Harvard Law School's Public Interest Reunion and New 3L Tuition Remission Program

9. Engaging Broad Communities in the Pursuit of Engraining the Public Service Ethic in Legal Education (tentative title)
10. The E-Guide to Public Service at America's Law Schools: What's in it for Me?

In addition, the Work Group plans to compile a National Directory of State Student Practice Rules, a project spearheaded by Paula Nailon.

Mini-Conference Planning

Work Group Members: *Michelle Stevens - Emory University School of Law (Chair), Cybele Smith – Ohio State, Lauren Duben - Georgetown*

Work Group members had a conference call on Tuesday, May 27.

The Mini-Conference is an annual event that takes place during the same weekend as the Equal Justice Works Conference and Career Fair. This year's Mini-Conference is scheduled for Saturday, October 11, 2008, from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the Georgetown University Law Center. Traditionally, the Mini-Conference is held on a day preceding the Career Fair. But this year, the Career Fair (Friday, October 10 and Saturday, October 11) is bookended by a religious and a federal holiday. In order to help members maximize on the time spent in D.C. and travel conveniently, the Mini-Conference will take place on Saturday, October 11. The Mini-Conference will begin at 9:00 a.m. with a welcome and continental breakfast, followed at 9:30 by a Public Service Section meeting. At 11:00 we'll have a demonstration of the new PSLawNet site, followed at noon by lunch and the *Pro Bono Publico* Award Ceremony. Three concurrent breakout sessions will run from 1:30 – 3:00: Counseling on Public Service Salary Issues, New Administration = New Federal Jobs, and a Pro Bono-related session that is still being fleshed out.

Also that weekend, NALP and Equal Justice Works will host a networking reception for Law School career services folks and Career Fair employers. The reception will take place at the close of the interview period on Friday, October 10 at the Omni.

Just prior to the above reception, NALP will again host a "Get to Know You/ Nuts & Bolts" event for law school public interest advising newcomers. This will include a substantive overview of issues new counselors face and an introduction to the resources available to them.

Monitoring of the College Cost Reduction and Access Act

Work Group Members: *Bill Penn - Lewis & Clark Law School (Chair), Kristen Bryant – University of Florida, Sam Charron – WNEC Law, Heather Jarvis – EJW, Michelle Vodenik – Chicago-Kent, Cindy Wilson – Northwestern*

This Work Group's assignment is to monitor developments with the College Cost Reduction and Access Act ("Federal Loan Forgiveness" legislation) and communicate this information to the Public Service Section membership.

Expanding Federal Job-Seeking Resources

Work Group Members: *Nicole Vikan - Georgetown University Law Center (Chair), Lauren Dubin – Georgetown, Norma Freitas – Willamette, Eve Stotland – NYU, Tari Williams – University of Alabama, Paula Nailon – University of Arizona*

Work Group Advisors: *Tim McManus and Kevin Simpson from the Partnership for Public Service*

The Work Group had a very productive conference call on Wednesday, June 11. The Group agreed that the NALP Federal Legal Employment Opportunities Guide deserves an overhaul to make it more useful, accurate, and contemporary. Work Group goals include: 1) providing information that will raise interest in federal government opportunities, 2) highlighting what types of opportunities are available (practice areas and locations), 3) explaining where and how to find these jobs (for current students and laterals, and including both specifically legal and non-traditional jobs for lawyers), and 4) clarifying how to get these jobs (i.e., providing sample KSAs, federal resumes, etc.). The Group would like to have a new and improved Guide by the beginning of calendar year 2009

Private-to-Public Interest Pipeline

Work Group Members: *Hillary Exter - Fordham University Law School (Chair), Tia Barnes – Duke, Bill Pen – Lewis & Clark, Nicole Vikan – Georgetown*

Given the reality that many law students interested in public service careers take jobs in the private sector right out of law school, this Work Group's goal is to develop resources for law school career counselors to assist alumni in making the private-to-public career transition.

New Initiatives

Work Group Members: *Tari Williams - University of Alabama School of Law (Chair), Kristin Davis – University of Wisconsin, Nicole Vikan – Georgetown*

So far we have identified one New Initiative which we are in the initial stages of discussing, which is the development of a National Pro Bono Honor Society within the Law Schools.