

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO: LISA WATSON, BOARD LIAISON, NEWER PROFESSIONALS SECTION  
FRED THRASHER, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, NALP**

**FROM: ERIC J. STERN, OUTGOING SECTION CHAIR, NEWER PROFESSIONALS SECTION**

**CC: MARYBETH RAJU, INCOMING SECTION CHAIR**

**RE: REPORT TO THE BOARD**

**DATE: March 27, 2008**

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As this is my last official board report as Section Chair, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank NALP for giving me the opportunity to serve in this capacity. I enjoyed tremendously this experience and am very excited about the section's new leadership team. You can feel confident that I will do everything I can to make sure they are successful.

**NEW LEADERSHIP TEAM**

As of the time of this publication, you probably know that MaryBeth Raju has enthusiastically agreed to accept the invitation to serve as Chair of our section. I cannot imagine anyone more well-qualified and poised for this position.

MaryBeth has also informed President Michael Gotham of her desired Vice Chair appointments for the section—each of whom will lead one of the section's four work groups. (I believe MaryBeth is awaiting final confirmation from the candidates on their willingness to serve. I have already accepted).

**Nicole Vikan (Georgetown)**—Leader of *Newcomer's Corner* work group  
**Christina Jackson (Faulkner)**—Leader of new work group designed to increase the number of presentation proposals from our section to the 2009 Annual Conference; to mentor members submitting proposals, do peer reviews of those proposals and assist those members whose proposals are accepted should they need help structuring their workshops (*more details will be forthcoming from MaryBeth on this new work group*).  
**Vic Massaglia (U of Minnesota)**—Leader of Expert Conference Calls work group  
**Eric Stern--(Boalt)**—Section Liaison to 2009 Newer Professionals Forum Planning Committee

**PREPARING FOR 2008 ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

We held a very productive section-wide conference call in early March to prepare for our section's participation in this year's Annual Conference. On this call, section vice chairs and work group leaders reported out on all work groups and events. We then developed a

set of agenda items for our section meeting—with our primary objective being to add new members to existing and new work groups.

**Section Flier at the Conference:** Beth Fuson (Howrey), Jennifer A. Walters (Syracuse) and Nicole Vikan (Georgetown) have been working hard to ensure that our section maximizes all visibility and membership building opportunities at the Conference. Jennifer created a flier designed to advertise generally opportunities to get involved in the section and specifically our section meeting. We will be distributing this flier throughout the conference facilities.

**Section Happy Hour at the Conference:** Beth and Nicole organized a happy hour that will take place at a local pub near the Conference hotel on Wednesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>-- between the afternoon sessions and the Member Celebration dinner. For this event, Beth designed an Evite that will be emailed the first week of April and resent a few days before the Conference. We believe this event will present an ideal opportunity for section members to get to know one another in a social, informal atmosphere.

### **“NEWCOMER’S CORNER”**

We continue to publish our monthly column in the NALP Bulletin, the *Newcomer’s Corner*, which is coordinated under the leadership of MaryBeth Raju.

MaryBeth offers the following report: “The Newcomer's Corner continues to be a popular NALP Bulletin feature among our section members and, we hope, the entire NALP community. During our section conference call in March, we solicited volunteers interested in writing an article for the column and were pleasantly overwhelmed by the number of responses and positive feedback received. We are proud to report that we currently have authors for the Newcomer's Corner lined up for the next ten months! “

### **REPORT OUT FROM JO PARENTE ON 2008 NEWER PROFESSIONALS FORUM**

Jo Parente serves as our section’s liaison to the planning committee for the 2008 Newer Professionals Forum and offers the following report on the conference itself: "According to the conversations on the Newer Professionals listserv and the feedback from the NALP office, the Newer Professionals Forum was a great success! During a lunch session at the forum, Jo Parente and Jessica Richman were given the opportunity to present ways to get involved with the Newer Professionals Section. The two discussed Bulletin article writing, presenting at the 2009 annual conference, using the listserv, getting involved with NALP, and generally becoming active in the section. Also, flyers with detailed information about how to get involved were produced and distributed to the attendees. Overall, the Section was able to work closely with the NALP leadership to increase its visibility with the newest members of the NALP community. The Newer Professionals Section is hopeful that in the future, they will continue to have a strong presence at the Forum."

## **EXPERT CONFERENCE CALL DISCUSSION GROUPS**

*This report is the same as was included in the January 2008 board report. Bolstering this work group under the leadership of Vic and adding members to support it will be a key objective at our section meeting at the 2008 Conference. I am including this information just for context and reference.*

Upon being appointed to the chair the section, I proposed this idea as a new work group to President Gihan Fernando. Being a new professional on the employer or law school side can be overwhelming at first. Luckily, NALP and its experienced professionals provide an unlimited amount of advice, experience and guidance for those of us who are new to the profession. Section Vice Chair Margaux Gillman, aided by Christina Jackson and other section members led a work group designed to work with the Board and other sections to put together a series of conference calls featuring some of NALP's most experienced professionals. The conference call work group committee currently consists of Margaux Gillman (section vice chair), Christina Jackson (career services call coordinator) and Marci Garza (law firm call coordinator).

The first set of "Expert Conference Calls" was a huge success. On July 30th, Vic Massaglia gave a wonderful presentation on blogging and the career services professional. We had 14 participants on the call. Vic was extremely engaging and the participants asked some great questions making for a very interactive session. On July 31st, Carolyn Wehmann led a session on interviewing skills for interviewing lawyers - geared towards law firm recruiters. The topic was spot on as recruiters ramped up for the busy interviewing season! 21 people dialed in for Carolyn's call.

**UPDATE FROM MARGUAX GILLMAN:** "The work group has been planning a joint law firm/law school Expert Conference Call around programming and how firms and schools can work together to provide substantive networking/learning/recruiting opportunities for students at all levels, taking into account the special needs of part time students. We had hoped to have the call in November but have had to postpone. We are keen to identify potential speakers who have worked on both sides. Skip Horne has been suggested - further speaker recommendations on this topic are welcome and appreciated!"