

October 19, 2010

Shawn Beem
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Re: NALP GLBT Section Second Quarter Board Report

The following is a report of the GLBT Section's activities for the second quarter of the 2010/2011 NALP year:

Summary

In the face of a busy recruiting season, the GLBT Section's activity actually increased during the second quarter of the year.

Proposed Name Change

During a recent Section Conference Call (held on September 29th), the Section voted to slightly alter the Section's name from the "GLBT Section" to the "LGBT Section" in an effort to bring the name in line with popular parlance and avoid the appearance of having misspelled or wrongly identified the group. The overwhelming number of organizations who use the acronym to identify their affiliation with homosexual peoples and causes use "LGBT". From reviewing past Board Reports and discussing this matter with past Chairs, it appears that this issue has been discussed for at least the past couple years, and for whatever reason, no action was taken. At this time, the Section appears in agreement, and requests that the Board approve the name change.

2010 Lavender Law Conference

The Board will be receiving an extensive report on the conference from the Section Liaison to the National LGBT Bar Association, Valerie Jackson, but I would like to quickly point out that the section's two main responsibilities for the Conference – the Career Fair Panel Discussion and the Career Counseling Project – were successful and provided some valuable information to the students who attended the Career Fair. The Panel Discussion, moderated by me with panelists Jim Leipold, Marcy Cox, Valerie Jackson, Liz Schwartz (solo practice), Michael Panzera (DOJ), and Zach Portilla & Shirley Rivandeneira (White House) was attended by more than 45 students. The 17 counselors who volunteered time for the Counseling Project provided advice to nearly 60 students. Unfortunately, this is 40 fewer students than were seen last year.

I have held a debriefing session with D'Arcy Kemnitz, Executive Director of the National LGBT Bar Association, during which we discussed some possibilities for increasing the attendance at next year's panel discussion and counseling project, including alternative marketing, physical placement, and changing the timing. Over the course of the coming months, the Section will discuss these ideas implement any necessary changes.

NALP Bulletin Articles

The following articles, submitted on behalf of the section, appeared in the NALP Bulletin during the second quarter:

Collecting and Reporting Data on LGBT Students at Law Schools (September 2010) – This article discussed the LGBT data collection for the NDLS, providing background for the efforts and tips for easily collecting the data

Contributors: *Tom Schoenherr*, Assistant Dean of Public Interest Resource Center, Fordham University School of Law
Caryn Schreiber, Attorney Recruiting Coordinator, Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP

Report from Lavender Law 2010 (October 2010) – This article provided the NALP membership with a summary of the Lavender Law Conference highlights.

Contributors: *Valerie Jackson*, Director of Diversity, Sutherland Asbil & Brennan LLP

Data Reporting

NALP Directory of Legal Employers - The Section has begun its yearly efforts to aid NALP's NDLE data collection and reporting efforts. Vice-Chair Andrew Chapin has prepared a letter to be sent to NALP member employers, and signed by both the NALP President and me (as Chair of the GLBT Section), explaining the background and justification for NALP's collection efforts, requesting that each employer record accurately the numbers of openly LGBT attorneys it employs.

NALP Directory of Law Schools - For the first time this year, NALP will be collecting similar demographic information from its member law schools. When completing the NALP Directory of Law Schools, members will be asked to collect and report the numbers of openly LGBT students enrolled in its programs. The GLBT Section is lending its assistance to those efforts being spearheaded by the RPAG, including: providing advice in the October and December editions of NALP Now and providing an insert (drafted by NALP staff and signed by the NALP President and me, as Chair of the GLBT Section) to accompany the NDLS form.

Web Resources

Joel Chanvisanuruk (Cincinnati), Chris Teague (Suffolk) and Shawn McKenna (NCCU) have agreed to Co-Chair a Work Group charged with revising the web resources offered by the Section on the NALP web page. The Work Group is evaluating the existing resources and discussing some alternatives to both content and format that will make the resources both more user friendly and comprehensive to students from all areas of the country. Given the breadth of this task, the Work Group is reaching out to the various student groups to help with the research of proper websites for inclusion. Further details of this project will be available next quarter, and the roll-out will be announced in Chris's & Shawn's March 2011 NALP Bulletin article on valuable web resources.

Environmental Scanning

The following is a list of articles that were submitted to the NALP GLBT Section listserv this quarter:

- "A Gay Campaign? Both Sides Demur," *New York Times*, July, 9, 2010 – Forwarded by Jim Leipold
- "Looking for Time Bombs and Tea Leaves on Gay Marriage," *New York Times*, July 19, 2010 – Forwarded by Jim Leipold
- "Out Presidents," *Inside Higher Education*, August 9, 2010 - Forwarded by Jim Leipold
- "Judge: Military's Ban On Gays Unconstitutional," *NPR.org*, September 9, 2010 – Forwarded by Shawn Beem
- "Move to End 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' Stalls in Senate," *New York Times*, September, 21, 2010 - Forwarded by Jim Leipold
- "Despite Setback, Gay Rights Move Forward," *New York Times*, September 21, 2010 - Forwarded by Jim Leipold
- "Private Moment Made Public, Then a Fatal Jump," *New York Times*, September 29, 2010 - Forwarded by Jim Leipold
- "Suicides Put Light on Pressures of Gay Teenagers," *New York Times*, October 4, 2010 - Forwarded by Jim Leipold
- "97 BigLaw Firms Get Perfect Scores on LGBT Issues," *ABA Journal*, October 4, 2010 – Forwarded by Shawn Beem

- “Judge Orders US Military to Stop ‘Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell,’” *New York Times*, October 10, 2010 – forwarded by Jim Leipold
- A New York Times “Room for Debate” forum on the issue of the DADT Injunction, October 10, 2010 – forwarded by Jim Leipold

Please let me know if the Board has any questions or feedback regarding this report and/or other items it believes should be addressed by the GLBT Section.

Best,

Jeff Becherer

Jeff Becherer
Chair, GLBT Section

cc: Fred Thrasher, NALP Deputy Director