

**MEMORANDUM**

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

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

**CC: MARGAUX GILLMAN, SECTION VICE CHAIR  
MARYBETH RAJU, SECTION VICE CHAIR  
JO PARENTE, FORMER SECTION CHAIR**

**RE: REPORT TO THE BOARD**

**DATE: January 15, 2008**

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**ON-LINE RESOURCE LIBRARY**

We have worked closely with NALP staff to make sure that all our section's key documents (including our October 2007 board report) are housed on the NALP website and easily accessible to new members of our section.

**INDIVIDUAL PHONE CONSULTATIONS**

New members of our section have continued to reach out to me to ask how they could get more involved in our section and in NALP generally. I have taken these opportunities to conduct individual phone consultations with these new members, during which time we talked not only about NALP, but also about some of the challenges they are facing as new professionals in this field. I also did some pro-active outreach to individuals when I learned they were new to their positions and/or to our profession.

**"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 thrive as a source for quick, helpful tips for newer professionals and as a place to introduce monthly authors to the NALP community. To date, the *Newcomer's Corner* has submitted 15 columns for publication in the NALP Bulletin, including topics from both career services and recruitment perspectives. As our section enters the new year, we hope to see continued support and involvement with the *Newcomer's Corner* from the newer members of NALP in 2008."

**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: "At this point, the NALP staff, with the input of the committee members and the Newer Professionals Section, has completed

the process of reviewing, revising and finalizing the schedule for the Newer Professionals Forum. Included in this year's programming is a formal networking luncheon where Jessica Richman and Jo Parente will be talking about the benefits of joining the NALP Newer Professionals Section. Also, the Newer Professionals Section is invited to provide an information table next to the registration desk where the Section can sign up new members and network with new members.”

### **2008 ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Nicole Vikan (Georgetown) proposed a compelling set of informal and formal ideas designed to help provide more intimate opportunities for newer professionals to network and get to know one another at the Annual Conference. She is working with MaryBeth Raju and other interested section members on developing activities to bring newer professionals together for networking and the exchange of ideas. Nicole and her committee are currently working with members of the 2008 Annual Conference Planning Committee on this project. We are planning a section-wide conference call in late February (after the Newer Professionals Forum to capture all of that new energy!) to coordinate section activities at the annual conference.

### **EXPERT CONFERENCE CALL DISCUSSION GROUPS**

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 are leading 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!”