

NALP Newer Professionals Section Meeting
NALP Annual Education Conference, Toronto, ON
Friday, April 18, 2008

Chair: MaryBeth Raju, Proskauer Rose LLP

Board Liaison: Arthur Fama, Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law

Below is a summary of our section meeting at the Annual Conference in Toronto. As you will see, our work groups require a variety of different skills (writing articles, public speaking, planning programs, etc.). I hope you find interest in one (or more!) of the projects listed and are willing to contribute. The results of our brainstorming session "Ideas for Newcomer's Corners, Feature Articles or NALP Seminars" are also below. I encourage you to read through the topics and offer your expertise on a subject(s) through one of our work groups.

WORK GROUPS

1) Annual Education Conference Presenters (Vice Chair: Kristen Schulte, Davis Polk & Wardwell)

This work group has the highest priority given the MAY 23 deadline. This new group was suggested as a way to increase the number of presentation proposals from our section for the 2009 Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., April 1-4. Presenting at the NALP Conference is a great opportunity to brush-up on your presentation skills and be an active participant in the Conference. Remember that you can team up with a colleague (or two) and make this a group project. Kristen Schulte will be circulating a list of section members who are willing to mentor individuals interested in presenting at the Conference. The goal for this term is to have at least 5 proposals submitted on behalf of this section. Please email Kristen at kristen.schulte@dpw.com if you are considering submitting (or already have submitted!) a presentation proposal.

2) Expert Conference Calls (Vice Chair: Vic Massaglia, University of Minnesota Law School)

Vic Massaglia, aided by Marty Grenhart (Boalt Hall) and Beth Fuson (Howery LLP), will organize a series of conference calls featuring some of NALP's more experienced members as speakers. Each call will address a different subject aimed at providing newer professionals with expert advice and the opportunity to ask questions of more experienced NALP members. The topics will alternate focuses from law school and law firm perspectives. Vic and his team plan to hold 6 expert conference calls during this term. The first call is tentatively scheduled for mid to late June. Vic will distribute the conference call logistics and topic closer to the date. Stay tuned!

3) Newcomer's Corner & Feature Articles (Vice Chair: Nicole Vikan, Georgetown Law Center)

The Newcomer's Corner is a monthly column in the Bulletin designed to provide short, helpful tips from NALP's newer professionals, to NALP's newer professionals.

We are currently the only section to have a recurring monthly piece in the Bulletin and the column has given this group great visibility in the NALP community. Submissions for the Corner can be on any topic with a word count of 200-400 words in a bullet point format.

This term, we are hoping to achieve the same success we have with the Newcomer's Corner with feature articles for the NALP Bulletin. Feature articles can run up to 1200 words in length and are great for those topics harder to address in the 200-400 word limit of the Corner. While we can submit feature articles throughout the year, NALP has requested that we provide them with a list of proposed articles by JUNE 20 for planning purposes. The goal for this term is to have 3 feature articles submitted on behalf on the section, all while continuing the Newcomer's Corner. If you are interested in submitting a feature article, please email Nicole Vikan (nav6@law.georgetown.edu) with your tentative topic and proposed publication date. Nicole and I can help brainstorm on topics, send deadline reminders, do a peer review or anything else to make the process as easy as possible.

4) Newer Professionals Forum Planning Committee (Vice Chair & 2007-2008 Section Chair: Eric Stern, Boalt Hall)

Eric Stern will be our liaison to the NPF Planning Committee. This work group is a chance for our section members to offer their input and ideas for the Newer Professionals Conference held in February. As relative newcomers ourselves we have a clear sense of the challenges that newer NALP members face in this profession. We hope that our suggestions will help the Planning Committee in designing programming and events applicable to newer professionals. If you are interested in joining this work group, please contact Eric at estern@law.berkeley.edu.

BRAINSTORMING SESSION

During the section meeting in Toronto, we asked members to break off into groups and come up with a list of possible topics for Newcomer's Corners, feature articles for the Bulletin and Annual Conference seminars. Eric Stern asked people to consider, "what were the biggest challenges you faced in the first few months of your job?" The session generated 20 environmental scanning ideas for our members to use for articles or presentations. The list is below.

1. The Grey Zone - recruiting from and approaching mid-size firms
2. Introduction to law practice for non-JDs (tips on how non-JDs can relate to JDs effectively)
3. Introduction to counseling for non-counselors
4. Bibliography for the new recruiter/advisor
5. Optimizing partnerships with other schools or firms
6. Increasing dialogue between schools and firms re: approaching students, maximizing programs, keeping students' attentions, trends, etc.
7. How to interact with faculty/partners and explain functions of our offices
8. Getting student attention for programs & deadlines
9. How to manage office priorities

10. How to measure success and manage expectations
11. Dealing with problem students
12. Managing student expectations
13. Small firms - practical programming ideas
14. Reaching out to the full student body & engaging them
15. Advising students in specialty programs (joint degrees, LLMs, different entry dates)
16. Dealing with cyclical nature of the job
17. Acronyms & terms for the newer professional
18. Analyzing the timing guidelines through possible scenarios
19. How to deal with awkward conversations with students
20. Establishing credibility with students