

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Janet Hutchinson, Board Liaison

Cc: Fred Thrasher, Deputy Director

From: Katelynn McBride, Chair

Date: March 27, 2017

Re: Fourth Quarter Report- NALP Law Student Professional Development Section

I. Fourth Quarterly Call

On March 29, we had our fourth quarterly section call. Only Elisabeth Beal and Eric Bono, the incoming section chair for the Law Student Professional Development section were on the call. We took the opportunity to talk about goals for the section for next year. Elisabeth agreed to serve as the liaison to the Lawyer Professional Development Section for next year and I agreed to serve as both the Environmental Scanning and RFP Chair. We filled Eric in on the section's priorities over the past year and discussed what we hope to accomplish going forward.

Elisabeth and I discussed our planned RFP in detail. Elisabeth was a major force in helping me create the professional development program booklet that we will present to NALP ahead of the April conference. She wrote many write-ups that will be included in the booklet and reached out to several schools to interview them about their professional development offerings. Together we are going to submit an RFP for the 2018 Annual Education Conference presenting the findings in the booklet. We will present an overview of common models for law school professional development programs, the subjects and themes that schools frequently focus on, provide specific examples of initiatives that schools have devised, and offer some best practices for professional development programming.

With Eric on the phone, we asked what's next? Once we finalize this booklet, what can we do going forward for our section's environmental scanning efforts? I commented that after presenting all of this data on what programs law schools have instituted, the next logical step is to ask how we can assess whether those programs are having an impact?

I said that we should talk to schools about how they analyze whether their programs are effective. Do they poll students about programs that they liked the most? Do they poll employers on whether their graduates are more professional in the workplace? Do they ask alumni involved in mock interviews of students how their interviewing skills have progressed? Eric contributed that DU is going to evaluate their employment numbers and assess whether more graduates are employed with DU's professional development program in place than were

employed before the program was in place. How else can schools can assess the efficacy of their professional development programs?

Elisabeth had the excellent idea to build on that by asking law firms how they measure the efficacy of their professional development programming? After all, law firms have more resources to invest in professional development and often have professionals devoted solely to advancing PD. How do they measure whether their programs are working and what have the results been? Which programs have been the most effective?

Thus, going forward next year, our section is going to focus heavily on collaborating with the Lawyer Professional Development Section to poll them on how they engage in measuring the effectiveness of their professional development programming. We are also going to go back to the schools we wrote up for this year's booklet and ask them how they assess the effectiveness of their professional development programming. The goal is to produce a second booklet in April 2018 that summarizes how different law firms and schools measure the efficacy of their programming and to generate best practices for assessing PD programming.

II. The NALP Professional Development Program Booklet

Elisabeth Beal, a few other Law Student Professional Development Section members, and myself have completed a total of 35 write-ups of various schools' professional development programs. I am working to complete as many additional write-ups as I can over the next few weeks.

Elisabeth and I are working to compile a booklet that contains each of these write-ups. Beyond just presenting the write-ups themselves, we are summarizing common trends in professional development programming, discussing the various models that law schools have devised, and generating best practices for professional development programming. Allison Phillips Belnap has agreed to format the completed write-ups into a professionally polished booklet that we will deliver to NALP before the April conference.

III. Membership Development

Allison Regan, our Membership Development Chair, reported on January 11 that "we have 376 members in the Law Student PD section from a variety of backgrounds including law firm and consultants. Since the last call, we have welcomed roughly 8 new members with an email welcoming the member and offering to schedule a call to discuss the section and the various ways to get involved."

IV. LSPD-LPD Collaboration

We have not had any reports on this collaboration recently but collaborating with the Lawyer Professional Development Section will be the central focus of our section next year with Elisabeth Beal at the helm of this effort.

V. Experiential Learning Requirements Monitoring

Our section chair has not reported back to me on her efforts in monitoring experiential learning requirements. I have emailed her several times but she has not had the chance to get back to me. Hopefully, next year, we can revive the experiential learning requirements monitoring efforts within our section. I have discussed doing so with Eric Bono.

VI. Environmental Scanning

Prior to the conference, I will deliver a booklet with at least 35 and up to 50 write-ups of several law schools' professional development programs, common elements within the programs, and some best practices in law school professional development. We will continue our environmental scanning efforts next year by speaking with law schools and law firms about how they assess the efficacy of their programs.