Summary

The first quarter of the 2011-2012 NALP year was dedicated to establishing volunteers in key positions; determining the scope and focus of work groups and potential projects; and the solicitation of proposals for the Professional Development Institute, NALP’s 2012 Annual Conference, and article proposals for the NALP Bulletin.

Key Roles

Liaison to Diversity Section: Alexandra Mai (King & Spalding) A member of both sections, Alexandra serves as our point of contact on common issues, particularly the promotion, development, and retention of women of color.

Liaison to Technology & Research Advisory Group: Liz Tingey (McKenna Long & Aldridge) Liz will focus on technology and social media, and share trends and developments from the advisory group with the LPD section.

Work Groups

Lawyer Professional Development Best Practices: Michelle Carter, Vice Chair (Ford & Harrison) Michelle will ensure that key information (best practices, hot topics) from the sessions at the Lawyer Professional Development Institute is shared with the membership at large.

Lawyer/Law Student Professional Development Collaboration: Michele Bendekovic, Section Vice Chair (Steptoe & Johnson) Michele serves as our section’s vice chair for this work group; Kristine Bridges is the other vice-chair from the Law School PD section. This work group plans to continue the project started last year about the value of experiential learning. The work group is planning a report for NALP in early 2012.

Request for Conference Proposals

Jean Hadley, Vice Chair for the RFP process of both the PDI and NALP conferences, shared the following proposals:

1. 3 Takes on Experiential Learning with Michele Bendekovic, Kristine Bridges, and Sue Schechter

2. Backing the Right Horse: How to Identify the Closer, the Long Shot that Pays, and the Lame. Strategies for Identifying Associate Performance Issues, Developing Rehabilitation Plans, and Smooth Exits with Stacey Kielbasa and Jeanne Picht

4. On-Ramping: How to Effectively Counsel and Recruit Experienced Laterals as they Return to Practice with Jeanine Dames, Judith Anne Levenfeld and Diane Downs

5. Selling to Firm Leadership: Using Your Persuasive Powers and a Healthy Dose of Data and Serena Miller and Marsha Redmon


BULLETIN ARTICLES — As of this report, the section is planning three articles:
1. Michele Bendekovic will write an article about the project she is working on with the Law School PD Section at the end of the year. The title will be, "3 Takes on Experiential Learning". Kristine Bridges and Sue Schechter will also author part of it.
2. Cindy Torres Essell has proposed an article on Successful Use of Performance Improvement Plans for August or later.
3. Kris Butler proposed an article on Deconstructing Effective Equity Partners: What did they look like as law students?

ENVIRONMENTAL SCANNING: Partner training.
More and more of our members are being asked to create development resources for partners. More than just business development- but full curriculums designed to make partners more effective rainmakers, mentors, firm citizens, and problem solvers. The section will watch this trend and update the members on advances and programming. (In particular, the LDI conference, etc.)

In conclusion, the Lawyer Professional Development Section thanks NALP for its ongoing support and expertise, and welcomes any feedback from the Board of Directors.