
FIRST QUARTLY BOARD REPORT

TO: NALP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FROM: SANDEE MAGLIOZZI

SUBJECT: AT THE LEGAL MASTER'S PROGRAMS INTEREST GROUP REPORT

DATE: JUNE 19, 2018

CC: FRED THRASHER

The Legal Masters Interest Group launched at the NALP Conference with 20 people attending the inaugural group meeting. There was a wide variety among the attendees from general interest about what others were doing to schools with fully developed programs contemplating how to best support students. The overwhelming interest of those attending was learning more and understanding how and who supports these students career development.

Much of what José Bahamonde-González, our Vice-Chair and I have done since the annual meeting is just trying to figure out how best to move forward and be of service since we don't have specific charges. Our first goal is to get out into the normal NALP channels for visibility by putting forward Annual Conference s and NALP Bulletin Proposals and schedule interest group calls.

We submitted the following proposals for Annual Conference on behalf of the group.

- Developing Best Practices: Designing Career Services Programming and Counseling for Students in Your Legal Masters Programs. w/ José Bahamonde-González, Sandra (Sande) Magliozzi, Tomea Mersmann
- One Size Does Not Fit All: Professional Development Programming for LLM and MLS Students w/ Melissa Berry, Sarah Hall, José Bahamonde-González

Proposed Bulletin Articles:

- For October 2018 Bulletin by José Bahamonde-González - Title: "Master of Science in Law: A New Academic Pathway for Learning the Law"
- For February 2018 Bulletin by Vicki M. Huebner -Title: "Is there room in the academy for non-lawyers and traditional law students?"

Upcoming Section Group Calls:

- October 2, 2018 at 11:00 am PT / 2:00 pm ET
- January 22, 2019 at 11:00 am PT / 2:00 pm ET
- March 12, 2019 11:00 am PT / 2:00 pm ET

Our second goal is to reach out to members of the broader MLS community both to see how we might engage them with NALP and what we can learn from each other. Erin O'Neal Muilenburg, Career Advisor at McGeorge has agreed to help us reach out to those individuals outside of NALP who may be interested in being a part of this discussion. I am overdue to circle back to Jim Leipold about drafting some appropriate language that encourages NALP participation/membership without stepping on the toes of other groups like the MJur conferences talking about these issues.

Finally, we have been tracking the conversation about MLS programs within various organizations and groups. José Bahamonde-González, reports that LSAC is strengthening their commitment to Legal Master and LLM programs. More specifically, they are committed to extending support for the recruiting and admissions processes for Legal Master Programs. Towards that end, the LSAC hosted the Legal Master Admissions Programs Luncheon during the recent LSAC Annual Meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada.

This was the Agenda distributed as part of the Invitation to the luncheon:

- LSAC's goal is to support your efforts to educate potential students on the value and variety of law-related degrees outside of traditional JD and LLM programs
- A landing page on the new website that provides general information about non-JD programs and links to the programs that have received acquiescence from the ABA
- The opportunity for you to provide links to your programs on our non-JD (Legal Masters) landing page and provide direct links to applications that are currently available on our site
- A redesign of our current LLM Credential and Application Service to support LLM and all Non-JD (Legal Master) programs
- SEO/marketing to direct traffic to our non-JD (LLM and Legal Master) page
- We want your input on these new offerings; please respond to our forthcoming survey request to make sure your needs are incorporated into the design of our services for non-JD programs.

LSCA said they will soon announce the establishment of a new advisory group for the Legal Master programs.

Additionally, George Mason University sponsored Taking Legal Education Online: A Conference for Deans and Associate Deans. There are a good number of MLS programs online and the strengths and flaws of how law schools support these programs was part of the discussion. Perhaps most noteworthy were the comments by Barry Currier (American Bar Association) about the need for articulating outcomes that insure value. This would suggest that the ABA may contemplate tracking employment outcomes at some point in the not too distant future and that is the expectation under Standard 508. Standard 508 requires "a law school shall provide all its students, regardless of enrollment or scheduling option, with basic student services, including maintenance of accurate student records, academic advising and counseling, financial aid and debt counseling, and career counseling to assist students in making sound career choices and obtaining employment.