

Memorandum

To: Jennifer Henfey, NALP Board Liaison, Public Service Section
Cc: Fred Thrasher, NALP Deputy Director; Samuel Halpert, NALP Director of Public Service Initiatives
From: Rochelle R. McCain, NALP Chair, Public Service Section (2019-2020)
Re: NALP Public Service Section First Quarter Board Report
Date: February 4, 2020

This report contains updates on the activities of the NALP Public Service Section and its Work Groups for the first quarter. The 2019-2020 Public Service Section Work Groups and Vice-Chairs are:

LRAP/CCRAA Work Group:

- **Susan J. Curry**, Director of Public Interest Law and Policy, The University of Chicago Law School
- **Aoife Delargy Lowe**, Equal Justice Works

Mini-Conference Planning Work Group:

- **Claire Cusella**, Equal Justice Works
- **Kathryn Shelton**, Associate Director, Public Interest Center, Northwestern Pritzker School of Law

NALP Annual Education Conference and Webinar Planning Work Group:

- **Lillian E. Evans**, Deputy Director of Legal Recruiting and Deputy EEO Officer, New York City Law Department
- **Prof. Elyse Diamond**, Director, Public Interest Law Center and Environmental Law Programs Career Specialist & Adjunct Professor, Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University

Pro Bono Work Group:

- **Laura Burstein**, Director of Public Service and Academic Success, Faculty Supervisor, Government and Public Interest Externship Program, SMU Dedman School of Law
- **Jennifer Mencarini**, Director of Career Development, Elon University School of Law

PSJD Resources Development Work Group:

- **Mike Kwarcinski**, Assistant Director of Career Development, Michigan State University College of Law
- **Brent Page**, Program Manager, Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI)

Publications Work Group:

- **Brooke Meckler**, Equal Justice Works
- **Rachel Kronick Rothbart**, University of Southern California Gould School of Law

The third Public Service Section Quarterly Call was held on January 15th at 3pm Eastern. According to NALPConnect, the Public Service Section membership is currently at 298. Section members use NALPConnect to share job openings, information about upcoming conferences and updates on resources. Each week, the Section receives a notification of the "PSJD Public Interest News Digest"

posted every Friday by Sam Halpert, which has invaluable updates on hiring trends and other related public interest news. The NALPConnect platform continues to be used, and the Section is engaged and supportive on it.

The final remaining Public Service Section quarterly call is slated for March 10, 2020 at 3:00pm EST.

WORK GROUP UPDATES

LRAP Work Group

Vice Chairs: Susan J. Curry, Director of Public Interest Law and Policy, The University of Chicago Law School and Aoife Delargy Lowe, Equal Justice Works

The Work Group held its third conference call on January 13th. The work group continues to monitor proposed changes to Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) and repayment plans. The Vice Chairs provided an update on the current state of legislation. There were specific discussions of the potential proposals to place a cap on Public Service Loan Forgiveness as well as developments in recent litigation. The related legislative and litigation tracking information can be found below as shared with the Work Group and the Section:

- Student Debt Legislative Tracker: https://www.nasfaa.org/legislative_tracker_loans_repayment
- [Weingarten vs. DeVos](#) (July 2019)
- [Student Debt Crisis vs. CFPB](#) (Nov 2019)
- [CFPB vs. Monster Loans](#) (Jan 2020)
- [Rosenberg vs. NY State Higher Ed](#). (SDNY Bkrcty, Jan 2020) [student loan debt possibly dischargeable in bankruptcy]

The Work Group continues to discuss possible plans for LRAP programming and webinars during this term.

The remaining call schedule for the Work Group is as follows:

- March 5, 2020 at 3:00pm EST
- June 2, 2020 at 3:00pm EST

Mini-Conference Planning Work Group

Vice Chairs: Claire Cusella, Equal Justice Works and Kathryn Shelton, Associate Director, Public Interest Center, Northwestern Pritzker School of Law

Since the Public Service Mini-Conference on Thursday, October 17th in Washington, D.C. at the National Association of Home Builders, the Vice Chairs have begun preliminary discussions on implementing new processes for future conference planning. Given that the current structure relies heavily on planning after the Annual Education Conference's RFP selection, the timeline is significantly truncated and can present challenges in securing speakers and developing new programming content for open concurrent sessions. In an effort to be less reliant, the Vice Chairs and the working group will slate a call before the

next section meeting to generate ideas on how to solicit future content and create a planning framework.

NALP Annual Education Conference and Webinar Planning Work Group

Vice Chairs: Lillian E. Evans, Deputy Director of Legal Recruiting and Deputy EEO Officer, New York City Law Department and Lauren E. Seffel, Senior Law Career Counselor, Public Interest Advising and Programs, The George Washington University Law School

As previously noted, twelve (12) RFPs were submitted on behalf of the Public Service Section for the 2020 Annual Conference in Montreal, Canada. Of those submitted, the below seven (7) were selected:

- Who's the Expert Here? Hitting the Reset Button on Peer Counseling
- Judicial Clerkships: A Strategic Stop on the Public Interest Career Path
- Carpe Diem: Public Interest Advising and Recruiting in an Age of Renewed Civic Engagement
- Cultivating Transferable Skillsets in Students Through Innovative Pro Bono Opportunities
- More Than Finding The Job: Building and Fostering A Culture of Public Interest and Service In Your Law School
- Preparing Students for Pro Bono & Public Service: A Plug & Play Curriculum
- The New Normal - PI/PS Hiring Under the New NALP Principles

The Work Group has turned its focus to collaboration with the Section's other work groups on webinars and will begin the first of its collaborations with the LRAP Work Group on its two webinars in development. In addition, members continue to be encouraged to connect with the Work Group after general calls for potential webinar content during the Section's quarterly call and the Mini-Conference.

Pro Bono Work Group

Vice Chairs: Laura Burstein, Director of Public Service and Academic Success, SMU Dedman School of Law, and Jennifer Mencarini, Director of Career Development, Elon University School of Law

The Work Group is continuing to accept responses for its survey. This survey is intended to gather information about best practices to ensure compliance with ABA Standard 303 (b)(2), particularly for the benefit of law schools that do not have a full-time/dedicated pro bono coordinator/advisor. To date, the group has received forty nine (49) responses has synthesized the information that it has thus far. The information will hopefully be shared in a Bulletin Article after its presentation during the "Preparing Students for Pro Bono & Public Service: A Plug & Play Curriculum" session at the 2020 Annual Conference.

The Work Group is still working on the preparation of pro bono public interest curriculum. The project would create specific resources and curriculum to provide a building block foundation for law schools to easily adapt and incorporate. The Work Group continues to assess the needs for pro bono students, specific skillset training, cultural competencies and impacts of secondary trauma.

The Work Group continues to monitor developments with state bars considering adopting pre-admission or licensure maintenance pro bono requirements as well as opportunities to collaborate with the AALS pro bono section.

The remaining schedule for Work Group calls is as follows:

- February 13, 2020 at 3:00pm EST
- May 7, 2020 at 3:00pm EST

PSJD Resources Work Group

Vice Chairs: Mike Kwarcinski, Assistant Director of Career Development, Michigan State University College of Law and Brent Page, Program Manager, Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI)

The Vice Chairs have made a great deal of progress coordinating with NALP's Sam Halpert and PSJD Fellow, Brittany Valente, on the below:

- Create a spreadsheet of all the resources on PSJD and reviewing them to determine what needs to be updated or consolidated, and going forward, how often the resources should be reviewed.
- Compose a list of topics to be brought before the Advisory Group meeting on January 23rd.
- Develop a long-term/sustainable plan for adding and revising content, including list of contacts.

Since these projects require significant effort, the Vice Chairs are reassessing the original slate of initiatives, but are hopeful these new priorities will build a strong foundation for easier resource updating in the future.

After the successful launch of the PSJD website relaunch, there have been some additional refinements and features by Sam Halpert and the PSJD team to enhance the user experience. The Work Group limited its work to those matters that do not require substantial website configurations but will turn its attention to this work in the future.

Publications Work Group

Vice Chairs: Brooke Meckler, Equal Justice Works and Rachel Kronick Rothbart, University of Southern California Gould School of Law

The Work Group has now successfully secured proposed articles for the NALP Bulletin through September. Each month, the Vice Chairs follow up individually with authors to finalize topics, deadlines, and publication dates once the proposal has been approved.

Below is the Section's current article list:

Proposed Publication Date	Tentative Topic	Author(s) Name
February	Mini-Conference - Event Write-Up	Claire Cusella
March	Boundary Setting/Work Life Balance or Budgeting	Liz Dunn
April	Gender and Achievement Gap in Public Interest Careers	Lauren Hartley

May	Benefit of Judicial Clerkships on Public Interest Careers	Michele Hoff
June	Public Interest for First Generation Law Students	Aoife Delargy Lowe
July	To Be Confirmed	Jana Matthews and April Giancola
August	The New Normal: PI/PS Hiring Under the New NALP Principles	Claire Cusella and Rochelle McCain
September	Employing Active Listening Skills When Counselling	Sharon Buckingham

Additionally, the Work Group is exploring ways to support Section members in writing for the PSJD Blog and other outlets, as appropriate.