

## Memorandum

**To:** Cybele Smith, NALP Board Liaison, Public Service Section  
**cc:** Fred Thrasher, NALP Deputy Director  
Meghan Grenda, NALP Member Services Coordinator  
Christina Jackson, NALP Director of Public Service Initiatives and Fellowships  
**From:** Kim Bart, NALP Chair, Public Service Section (2014-2015)  
**Re:** NALP Public Service Section 3rd Quarter Board Report  
**Date:** January 22, 2015

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This report contains updates on the activities of the NALP Public Service Section and its Work Groups for the 3rd quarter. The 2014-2015 Public Service Section Work Groups and Vice-Chairs are:

- NALP Conference RFP Work Group: Vice-chair Hillary Exter, Director of Student Organizations & Publicity, Fordham University School of Law
- Publications Work Group: Vice-chair Jen Pollard, Director of Judicial Clerkships & Government Programs, University of Maryland School of Law
- LRAP Work Group: Vice-chair Nicole Simmons, Director of Public Service Programs, The University of Texas School of Law
- Pro Bono Work Group: Vice-chairs Danielle Sorken, Director of the Office of Public Service, Brooklyn Law School; and Jen Tschirch, Pro Bono Coordinator, Catholic University Columbus School of Law
- PSJD Resources Work Group: Vice-chairs Leslie Thrope, Director of the Center for Public Service Law at Cardozo School of Law; and Michael Bergmann, Executive Director of the Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI)
- Mini-Conference Planning Work Group: Vice-chair Katie Dilks, Assistant Director for Public Interest Programs, Georgetown University Law Center

The Public Service Section held its 3rd quarterly conference call on January 13, 2015 and all of the Section's Work Groups reported good progress on many significant Section projects and laid out action plans for the rest of the academic year. The call also provided an opportunity for Section members to ask questions of colleagues about the NALP Annual Education Conference, federal loan repayment cap proposals, and other topics of general interest to the Section membership. The call had high levels of participation, and the Section membership appears to be active, engaged and looking forward to the Annual Conference in April 2015.

The 4th Public Service Section Quarterly Call is scheduled for March 26th at 3:00pm EST.

According to NALP Connect, the Public Service Section membership has grown to 282 members. Section members regularly use NALP Connect to share resources and announcements, including the valuable "PSJD Public Interest News Digest" posted every Friday by Christina Jackson. Other topics shared and discussed via NALP Connect this quarter include: advocacy on behalf of Public Service Loan Forgiveness; a notice about free trial ABA membership; a job posting for a new PSJD fellow; an announcement about the 2015 Rebellious Lawyering Conference; a posting for the 2015 Curtin Justice Fund Legal Internship Program; a posting about summer internships at East Bay Community Law Center; an announcement of

AALS Pro Bono Awards; information about a new student debt blog on Huffington Post being sponsored by EJW; and other information of special interest to Public Service Section members.

### **WORK GROUP UPDATES**

#### NALP Conference RFP Work Group

*Vice-chair Hillary Exter, Fordham University School of Law*

This year, the Annual Education Conference RFP Work Group helped to coordinate 11 RFPs on behalf of the Public Service Section, including one in coordination with the Judicial Clerkships Section of NALP. A Public Service Section-sponsored Workshop will be offered in almost every single time slot on the Annual Conference schedule:

#### Wed. April 22nd, 10:45am-12noon

- Advancing a Public Service Career Through Clerking: Strategies, Challenges and Guidance
- Shifting Legal Landscapes: How pro bono, Limited License Practitioners, and Technology Will Impact Public Sector Hiring

#### Wed. April 22nd, 1:30pm-2:45pm

- Alternative, Non-Traditional, & JD Advantage Careers in Public Service

#### Wed. April 22nd, 3:15pm-4:30pm

- Pro Bono: A Piece of the Access to Justice Puzzle

#### Wed. April 22nd, 3:15pm-4:30pm

- Watch What Happens Live – Inside the Department of Justice

#### Thurs. April 23rd, 9:00am-10:15am

- The Future of Student Debt Relief: Building on Public Service Loan Forgiveness

#### Thurs. April 23rd, 10:45am-12noon

- Leveraging Smartphones and Law Students to Grow Legal Aid
- Public Interest for the Long Haul: Preparing Students for Careers in Public Service

#### Thurs. April 23rd, 12noon-1:30pm – Public Service Luncheon

#### Thurs. April 23rd, 1:45pm-3:00pm

- Current Challenges in Public Interest Careers – Let's Talk!

#### Fri. April 24th, 10:30am-11:45am

- Social Justice and Affordable Fee Work: Supporting New Grads in New Practices

#### Fri. April 24th, 1:45pm-3:00pm

- Shattering Perceptions of Prosecutors: Exploring the Role of the Prosecutor in the Public Interest and in Communities of Color

During the Public Service Section Quarterly Conference Call, Hillary invited members to consider chairing the Annual Education Conference RFP Work Group, as she is retiring from law school service this year.

#### Publications Work Group

*Vice-chair Jen Pollard, University of Maryland School of Law*

Jen has coordinated a full slate of article contributors to the NALP *Bulletin*, to draft articles on public service-related topics each month. The topics remaining through the rest of this year are:

- January – Alexia McCaskill (Colorado) on Public Interest Advising for Post-Graduates in Limited Markets
- February – Jenia M. Bacote (Mercer) on Financial Aspects of Public Interest Jobs
- March – Jackie Cheney (Brooklyn) on Helping Students Handle the 2nd Language Requirement for Direct-Service Legal Work
- April – Elyse Moskowitz (Pace) and Claudia Melo (Minnesota) on Best Practices for Summer Clerkship Application Process (Joint Article with Judicial Clerkships Section)
- June – Dena Bauman (UDC) on The Importance of Connecting with Public Interest-Focused Bar Associations
- July – Alexa Shabecoff (Harvard) on A Discussion of Law Review articles on Higher Job Satisfaction Among Public Interest Careers

Jen also has been encouraging and supporting Section members who are interested in writing to contribute to the PSJD Blog.

#### LRAP Work Group

*Vice-chair Nicole Simmons, University of Texas School of Law*

This group has continued its work refining the LRAP Guide, providing the Section with regular updates and analysis about “best practices” for creating and maximizing law school LRAP programs. The August 2014 Version of the Guide can be found in the Public Service Section of NALPconnect (members only) and on the NALP webpage (public).

At this year’s Mini-Conference, Nicole Simmons and Radhika Miller reintroduced the membership to the updated “members only” and public versions of the Guide to Law School LRAPs. They are seeking additional members of the Section to serve as “human resources” for schools looking for advice on starting or updating an LRAP.

The LRAP Work Group also has been monitoring and reporting on proposals to modify the Federal Public Service Loan Forgiveness program, a program to which many law school LRAP programs are structurally linked. The LRAP Work Group has connected with Isaac Bowers at Equal Justice Works in order to more effectively and broadly share loan forgiveness program-related updates with the NALP membership and the law school public interest community.

#### Pro Bono Work Group

*Vice-chairs Danielle Sorken, Brooklyn Law School; and Jen Tschirch, Catholic Univ. Columbus Sch. of Law*

The Pro Bono Work Group is coordinating with an ad hoc group of law school pro bono program coordinators to develop a “Law School Pro Bono Program Basics” guide for newcomers to the field. This guide/handbook will be drafted and finalized this year, and distributed broadly through channels including NALP Connect and the AALS Pro Bono Section. Anna Davis is leading the charge on developing the guide, of draft of which should be completed by the end of February.

The work group continues to monitor implementation of the New York State bar pro bono requirement as well as California’s consideration of a similar requirement for CA bar admissions.

The work group also is building out the pro bono resources on the newly redesigned PSJD site, including a list of law school pro bono resources and a page summarizing bar admissions pro bono requirements.

#### PSJD Resources Work Group (new for 2014-2015)

*Vice-chairs Leslie Thrope, Cardozo School of Law; and Michael Bergmann, Executive Director of PILI*

Earlier in the school year, members of this work group divided up the sections within the PSJD.org Resource Center and did a comprehensive review of all the content currently available on the PDJD Resource Center website. Work group members reviewed every page for dated content and broken links, considered new content for the various resource sections, and submitted a comprehensive report to the NALP PSJD staff. All current PSJD resources have now been updated.

The work group has put a call out to NALP Connect to encourage members to share useful content – such as handbooks, guides, or PowerPoint programs – with the PSJD Resource Center, in order to build out additional resource sites. The Pro Bono work group is assisting with build-out of the pro bono resource site.

As new Resource Center sections are created, the work group will help to redistribute the current content among the new sections, and recommend additional information or topics to be added. The work group also will help to develop new content and resource materials as needed.

#### Mini-Conference Planning Work Group

*Vice-chair Katie Dilks, Georgetown University Law Center*

This year’s Public Service Section “Mini-Conference” was held on October 23, 2014 and was a resounding success. Well over 100 people attended the Mini-Conference this year, which offered a fantastic keynote speaker, a town hall-style lunch program, and two breakout sessions with 5 different workshop programs. The work group is in the process of compiling feedback from this year’s Mini-Conference in order to kick off planning this summer for next year’s Mini-Conference.