

Memorandum

To: Layke Martin, NALP Board Liaison, Public Service Section

Cc: Fred Thrasher, NALP Deputy Director; Christina Jackson, NALP Director of Public Service Initiatives and Fellowships

From: Danielle Sorken, NALP Chair, Public Service Section (2015-2016)

Re: NALP Public Service Section 1st Quarter Board Report

Date: June 24, 2015

This report contains updates on the activities of the NALP Public Service Section and its Work Groups for the first quarter. The 2015-2016 Public Service Section Work Groups and Vice-Chairs are:

- LRAP/CCRAA Working Group: Nicole Simmons, Director of Public Service Programs, The University of Texas School of Law
- Mini-Conference Planning Working Group: Katie Dilks, Assistant Director for Public Interest Programs, Georgetown University Law Center
- NALP Conference RFP Working Group: Samantha Zappia Kasmarek, Associate Director for Career and Professional Development, Syracuse University College of Law and Jaya Saxena, Career Counselor, George Washington University Law School
- Pro Bono Working Group: Jen Tschirch, Pro Bono Coordinator, Catholic University Columbus School of Law and Laura Dym Cohen, Associate Clinical Professor of Law Director, Street Law Clinic & Community Outreach, Southwestern Law School
- PSJD Resources Website Working Group: Michael Bergmann, Executive Director, Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI)
- Publications Working Group: Jen Pollard, Director of Judicial Clerkships & Government Programs, University of Maryland School of Law

The Public Service Section had a very active First Quarter. The Section held its first quarterly conference call on June 17, 2014 and by that date all of the Work Groups had held at least one initial conference call meeting in order to plan and coordinate for the year ahead. During the Section's first quarterly call, each Work Group shared an update about its goals and plans for the year, and invited Section members to sign up for Work Group tasks. Minutes from the first quarterly call were posted on NALP Connect as a Public Service Section resource (and also are included here, as an attachment).

According to NALP Connect, the Public Service Section membership has grown to almost 280 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. In June, a "Welcome to the Public Service Section" email was sent out to all Section members, alerting them to the opportunity to sign up for the Work Groups and noting the dates for each Group's first conference call.

The Public Service Section Quarterly Calls are scheduled as follows:

- June 17th at 3:00pm EST
- Oct. 8th at 3:00pm EST
- Jan 13th at 3:00pm EST
- March 23rd at 3:00pm EST

WORK GROUP UPDATES

NALP Conference RFP Work Group

Vice-chair Samantha Zappia Kasmarek, Associate Director for Career and Professional Development, Syracuse University College of Law and Jaya Saxena, Career Counselor, George Washington University Law School

This year, the Annual Education Conference RFP Work Group helped to coordinate 13 RFPs on behalf of the Public Service Section, including programs in collaboration with the Small/Solo CSO Section, Employer Outreach Section and Diversity/Inclusion Section. Sam and Jaya held several conference calls prior to the RFP deadline. They made a particular effort to collaborate with other sections and promote a diversity of panelists.

The conference program proposals from the Public Service Section this year include:

1. Background Checks & Security Clearances: What You Need to Know to Counsel and Advise Law Students and Recent Graduates!
2. Bridges to Great Careers: Building Your School's Bridge-to-Practice Program
3. Easy As PI - Implementing the Essentials of Public Interest Advising (submitted with Small/Solo CSO section)
4. From Administrative Adjustments to Finding Zen: Professional Development for the Public Service Counselor
5. Incubators and Beyond: Building an Entrepreneurial Access to Justice Program
6. Opening Lines of Communication – Employer and CSO Relations from the Employer's Perspective (submitted with CSO Employer Outreach section)
7. Perspectives on Loan Forgiveness and Student Debt
8. Public Interest in the Private Sector: Blurring the Boundaries
9. The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Public Interest Advisors
10. The Brain Drain: Why Do Diverse Attorneys Leave, Where Do They Go & Why Is It Better? (Submitted with Diversity/Inclusion Section)
11. The Current Challenges in Public Interest Careers – Let's Talk!
12. The Weird and Wonderful World of International Organizations
13. Utilizing your federal work study or externship program to conduct employer outreach (and find more jobs for your students!)

Publications Work Group

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

The Publications Work Group had its first conference call of the year on Thursday, May 21, 2015, in order to identify authors and topics for this year's monthly contributions by the Public Service Section to the NALP *Bulletin*. Jen has coordinated a full slate of article contributors to the NALP

Bulletin, to draft articles on public service-related topics each month. The schedule and article are in the attached document labeled 2015-16 Publications Chart.

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

LRAP/CCRAA Work Group

Vice-chair Nicole Simmons, University of Texas School of Law and Laura Dym Cohen, Associate Clinical Professor of Law Director, Street Law Clinic & Community Outreach, Southwestern Law School

The LRAP/CCRAA Working Group held their first conference call on Wednesday, June 17th. This year the work group plans to continue monitoring proposed changes to Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) and repayment plans. They also plan to organize a survey on the state of LRAP programs.

On the Quarterly Call, the Work Group via Isaac Bowers from Equal Justice Works (EJW) updated the Section on CCRAA and Loan Repayment. He pointed out two worrying developments: the Republican budget includes elimination of PSLF and the President's budget provides a cap on PSLF. EJW is also monitoring the education reauthorization bill to see if PSLF is involved. Furthermore, Congressman Jim McDermott has been in touch with EJW about a bill he is introducing that would make forgiveness a non-taxable event. We also received an update on the Pay as You Earn (PAYE) loan repayment program. Congress finished the negotiated rule-making on a revised PAYE (called REPAYE). This plan would get rid of the new borrower provision expanding the plan to existing borrowers as well. The downside of the revision is that forgiveness is based on 25 years of payments and income is determined by individual and individuals' spouses' incomes.

Pro Bono Work Group

Vice-chairs Jen Tschirch, Catholic Univ. Columbus Sch. of Law and Laura Dym Cohen, Associate Clinical Professor of Law Director, Street Law Clinic & Community Outreach, Southwestern Law School

The Pro Bono Work Group held its first quarterly call on June 3. The work group intends to continue to update the PSJD resources that the Work Group enhanced last year regarding preadmission requirements and the links to pro bono materials for volunteers. On our quarterly call, the Work Group informed the Section that according to a New York-based survey of schools, very few Affidavits of Compliance have been returned to bar admission applicants.

The Work Group's main goal for the upcoming year is to collaborate with other national organizations and regional endeavors. They will be monitoring two resources that will be helpful to law school pro bono administrators: (1) a pro bono handbook that the NYS Access to Justice Coalition, comprised of schools and employers, are putting together for law student pro bono led by Columbia Law School; and (2) a manual for law students interested in creating organizations on campus that Equal Justice Works hopes to make available this fall. They will also report back to the section on Pro Bono Week, taking place October 25-31 this year, and encouraged members to share programming ideas. Finally, they will be participating in the National Pro Bono Coalition calls to identify areas of collaboration and to ensure we're not duplicating efforts across organizations. That call will take place on June 29 and will include representatives from NALP, AALS, Equal Justice Works, and the ABA.

PSJD Resources Work Group

Vice-chair Michael Bergmann, Executive Director, Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI)

The PSJD Resources Work Group held its first conference call on Tuesday, June 16, 2015. The mission of this group is to help support the PSJD Advisory Group and bolster the resources available on PSJD.org. This year the Work Group will focus on developing practice area guides in the Explore Your Career Options section of the Resource Center. The Group will create a template that will give users a more digestible snapshot of a practice area and conform all existing guides to the template as well as develop new guides. The Work Group will also update and expand the other sections of the Resource Center on PSJD. The Work Group's third goal is to interview practitioners and recruiting decision-makers at government agencies and non-profits to add a new type of resource.

Mini-Conference Planning Work Group

Vice-chair Katie Dilks, Georgetown University Law Center

This year's Public Service Section "Mini-Conference" is scheduled to be held October 22, 2015 (just before the annual Equal Justice Works Conference and Career Fair). The Mini-Conference Planning Work Group met for the first time by conference call on Wednesday, May 20th 2015. Planning for the annual Mini-Conference is off to a very strong start. The Work Group decided to keep most of the structure of the conference that was used last year. The group decided that this year's plenary topic will be on Access to Justice efforts. Planning is also started on the breakout sessions and the Public Service Advising 101.

The Mini-Conference Planning Work Group's next call is scheduled for July 16, 2015.

PUBLIC SERVICE-RELATED ISSUE TRACKING

Several key issues to keep in mind that are pertinent to the Public Service Section are:

- Monitoring the ABA changes to employment reporting as they relate to school funded bridge fellows as well as how law schools change their programs in reaction to these ABA changes.
 - The Section will also encourage participation in the new Bridge to Practice Fellowship survey that Christina Jackson and other members of the NALP staff have put together
- Keeping track of potential federal changes to the CCRAA and loan forgiveness.
- Continued expansion of incubator programs and the various models of incubators.
- Monitoring of programs for non-lawyers to engage in legal work such as the Limited License Practitioners in Washington State

Member Name	Contact Information	Article Topic	Article Due Date	Article Publication Date
Lindsay McCaslin	ljmccaslin@wm.edu	7 habits for highly effective public interest counseling	August	September
Michelle Vodenik	mvodenik@kentlaw.iit.edu	Counseling students to be successful at public interest job fairs	September	October
Akua Akyea & Sam Kasmarek	Akua.akyea@yale.edu Kasmarek@law.syr.edu	International Human Rights 101	October	November
Danielle Sorken & Alexis Martinez	Danielle.sorken@brooklaw.edu martinea@stjohns.edu	Pro Bono programs for 1Ls	November	December
Laura Torchio	ltorchio@law.pace.edu	Counseling students re: summer funding/post-grad funding	December	January
Christine Guard	Guard_c@law.mercer.edu	Uniform Bar Exam—information on what it is and where it is going to go	January	February
Jaya Saxena & Amanda Furst	jsaxena@law.gwu.edu amfurst@umn.edu	Joint with Judicial Clerkship Section—Impact of gap year clerkships on public service careers	February	March
Amanda Furst	amfurst@umn.edu	Using data/outcomes for public interest careers	March	April
Meredith O'Keefe	Meredith.okeefe@uconn.edu	Public service careers/lower paid attorneys being happier and conveying	April	May

		info to students		
Isaac Bowers & Robert Jack	ibowers@equaljusticeworks.org RJack@stu.edu	PSLF Update	May	June
Claudia Melo	Melox005@umn.edu	Strategic planning around public service goals in a career office	June	July
Katie Dilks	Skd9@law.georgetown.edu	Using technology— how apps are making for better access to justice	July	August