MEMORANDUM

January 22, 2015

To
NALP Office
Valerie Jackson, NALP Board Liaison, SOGIE Section

From
Jennifer Dekker

CC

Re Quarterly SOGIE Section Board Report, January, 2015

Our last section conference call was held on October 21, 2014. The purpose of our call and the topic was mainly centered around strategic planning for the next five years for the section. A separate call was held on November 11, 2014, to discuss Data Reporting.

Bulletin Submissions

The Section last submitted a bulletin article in the September 2014 issue of the NALP Bulletin. The article was submitted by Section member Andrew Chapin and was titled, “20 Years of LGBT History within NALP.” Shawn McKenna is working on a bulletin article, “Current Issues Facing LGBT Attorneys.”

Vice Chair Reports

Annual Education Conference:
Melanie Rowen and Morgan Lynn’s session for the April 2015 Annual Education Conference will take place on Thursday, April 23rd at 9:00 a.m.

Leading on Trans Inclusion: Creating a Safe Environment for Trans and Gender Non-Conforming People in Your Workplace or School

Many of us work in law schools, firms, or other organizations that value diversity and inclusion, but know that we have more to learn about supporting transgender and gender non-conforming students and attorneys. Participants in this interactive workshop will come away able to lead their office in identifying and addressing gender inclusion issues, with a more nuanced understanding of what makes a safe and supportive environment for transgender and gender non-conforming students and attorneys, as well as concrete ideas and resources to help make their school, firm or organization more welcoming.

Lavender Law Conference:
It is time again to begin planning for the 2015 Lavender Law Conference. The conference will take place August 5-7 in Chicago. Prior to our call slated for February 11th, I will be reaching out to the current Vice-Chairs, Lori Lorenzo and Mark Goldfarb, to determine their interest in staying on as Vice-Chairs for the 2015 conference.
**Data Reporting:**
We are seeing an interesting trend in LGBT data reporting. While we recently saw an up trend in new law schools reporting their LGBT statistics, we also incurred a drop-off of LGBT reporting from schools previously reporting. Gary McGinnis and I have been in the process of brainstorming as to what we can do to keep the reporting levels consistent, to improve the number of schools that are reporting and to create meaningful statistics for students and employers. This is a big focus for the Section’s next 5-years.

**Environmental Scanning:**
The Supreme Court recently granted review of same-sex marriage cases (four cases from Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee), and their ruling is expected in late June, 2015. The justices will consider two questions pertaining to rights under the 14th Amendment of the Constitution, 1) Whether states are required to license same-sex marriages and 2) whether states are required to recognize same-sex marriages when licensed in other states.

For many, this ultimate ruling may seem long overdue. Our Section will discuss and watch with interest over the coming months.