

MEMORANDUM

**TO: LISA WATSON, BOARD LIAISON, NEWER PROFESSIONALS SECTION
FRED THRASHER, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, NALP**

FROM: ERIC J. STERN, SECTION CHAIR, NEWER PROFESSIONALS SECTION

**CC: MARGAUX GILLMAN, SECTION VICE CHAIR
MARYBETH RAJU, SECTION VICE CHAIR
JO PARENTE, FORMER SECTION CHAIR**

RE: REPORT TO THE BOARD

DATE: October 5, 2007

SUMMARY

Since the last board report, my partner and I have moved across the country and I have started a new job at Boalt Hall. It has been quite a busy summer and fall!

ON-LINE RESOURCE LIBRARY

We have worked closely with NALP staff to make sure that all our section's key documents (board reports, fliers, minutes from meetings, etc.) are housed on the NALP website and easily accessible by new members of our section.

INDIVIDUAL PHONE CONSULTATIONS

Several new members of our section have reached out to me to ask how they could get more involved in our section and in NALP generally. I took this opportunity to conduct three individual phone consultations with these new members, during which time we talked not only about NALP, but also about some of the challenges they are facing as new professionals in this field.

NEWCOMER'S CORNER

We continue to publish our monthly column in the NALP Bulletin, the *Newcomer's Corner*, which is coordinated under the leadership of MaryBeth Raju.

MaryBeth offers the following report:

Our monthly *Newcomer's Corner* in the NALP Bulletin continues to be a popular column with our Section members and the NALP community. While we unfortunately did not have a submission for September's Bulletin, our section collectively succeeded in lining up authors for the next eight months. Since September, MaryBeth Raju, the column's coordinator, has received numerous emails from section members who are eager to get involved and keep the *Newcomer's Corner* going. As well as increasing our member participation, the *Newcomer's Corner* continues to give our section and the column's authors visibility to the NALP community.

2008 NEWER PROFESSIONALS FORUM

Jo Parente serves as our section's liaison to the planning committee for the 2008 Newer Professionals Forum and offers the following report:

“The 2008 Newer Professionals Forum planning is well underway and the Newer Professionals Section offered a supporting role to the planning committee. Thanks to the Newer Professionals Section and their brainstorming efforts at the annual meeting, the Newer Professionals Section was able to suggest additional content for some of the existing programming. The planning committee had a conference call in August to discuss the 2008 Forum, and as a follow up, the Newer Professionals Section communicated ideas and feedback through our listserv. These ideas were incorporated into the suggestions offered to the planning committee for the Forum. The Newcomer's Corner's topic for the October NALP Bulletin was drafted and designed to kick-off the advertising for the 2008 Forum and we look forward to seeing more of the same in the future. The next steps are to have the topics finalized, the speakers selected and the brochures designed. The Newer Professionals Section intends to remain a resource for the remainder of the planning process.”

2008 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

We had a healthy number of proposals submitted on behalf of the section. (I realize that proposals have been accepted and presenters have been notified, but I am unsure as to which of the proposals from our section were accepted).

**Eric McKinney (PENN)

**Vic Massaglia, Christina Jackson and Tariq Hafeez (MICH)

**Rhonda Beassie (Houston)

**Elizabeth Wefel (St. Thomas) & Karen Hester

**Leigh Allen (CLEO/ABA)

Nicole Vikan (Georgetown) proposed a compelling set of ideas designed to help provide more intimate opportunities for newer professionals to network and get to know one another at the Annual Conference. She is working with MaryBeth Raju and other interested section members on developing activities to bring newer professionals together

for networking and the exchange of ideas. Nicole and her committee are currently working with members of the 2008 Annual Conference Planning Committee on this project.

We are planning a conference call in early January to coordinate section activities at the annual conference.

EXPERT CONFERENCE CALL DISCUSSION GROUPS

Upon being appointed to the chair the section, I proposed this idea as a new work group to President Gihan Fernando. Being a new professional on the employer or law school side can be overwhelming at first. Luckily, NALP and its experienced professionals provide an unlimited amount of advice, experience and guidance for those of us who are new to the profession. Section Vice Chair Margaux Gillman, aided by Christina Jackson and other section members are leading a work group designed to work with the Board and other sections to put together a series of conference calls featuring some of NALP's most experienced professionals.

Margaux and her Committee offer the following report on the first set of calls:

Our first set of "Expert Conference Calls" was a huge success! On July 30th, Vic Massaglia gave a wonderful presentation on blogging and the career services professional. We had 14 participants on the call. Vic was extremely engaging and the participants asked some great questions making for a very interactive session. On the afternoon of July 31st, Carolyn Wehmann led a session on interviewing skills for interviewing lawyers - geared towards law firm recruiters. The topic was spot on as recruiters ramped up for the busy interviewing season! 21 people dialed in for Carolyn's call.

The conference call work group committee currently consists of Margaux Gillman (section vice chair), Christina Jackson (career services call coordinator) and Marci Garza (law firm call coordinator). The next call is tentatively planned for early November. There are several topics under consideration.