

To: Fred Thrasher and Beth Hansen

From: Dena Bauman, Chair (University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law)

Re: Solo & Small CSO Interest Group July 2008 Report

Date: June 30, 2008

NALP created this interest group in 2008, following a growing interest from offices with one or two professionals. President Mike Gotham asked me to chair the group. NALP has also established a list serv, which is active.

### **Meetings**

We had our first meeting at the 2008 annual conference in Toronto on April 18. This was intended to be a “brainstorming” meeting to find out who, and how many, individuals were interested, and what topics we wanted to focus on. Approximately two dozen people attended, with several on a conference call number that NALP provided. Susan Gainen, Director, Career and Professional Development Center at the University of Minnesota Law School, facilitated the discussion. Through that meeting, we decided to move ahead with two conference proposals and to create a directory of all offices that have 1-2 professionals.

### **Bulletin Articles**

Dena authored an article introducing the interest group, and writing about our April meeting and future plans, for the July Bulletin. Christina Jackson, of Thomas Goode Jones School of Law, Faulkner University (Alabama), has proposed an article outlining the essentials that a small office needs.

### **Conference Proposals**

Margeann Bennett, Director of Professional Development at Washburn University School of Law, took the lead in writing two proposals for the 2009 annual conference. One proposal is to establish a “program bank” with templates for a wide area of programs: judicial clerkships, public interest, interviewing skills, etc. that the interest group members could share. Although other NALP members would be welcome to access the bank, contributions would focus on programs that are appropriate for very lightly staffed offices. The other proposal would be a “best of NALP” with designated volunteers agreeing in advance to cover certain critical programs and share that with the rest of the group.

### **Work Group Report**

Mary Payne, Mary Payne, Career Services Specialist at the Office of Law Student Development/Career Services, Southern Illinois University School, has compiled a sub-directory (from the NALP directory of Law Schools) of approximately 60 offices that

meet the “definition” of 1-2 professionals. We’ve posted that on the list serv for any corrections, and will use it to build outreach. Assuming that number is correct, it represents almost 1/3 of all law schools in the country and is therefore an important constituency for NALP.