

## **QUARTERLY REPORT, NALP LL.M. Section**

To: NALP Executive Board

From: Jessica Richman, Chair, LL.M. Section

Re: Quarterly Report

Date: March 31, 2008

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### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This has been a quiet quarter for the Section. We recently had a conference call where we focused on goals and issues we'd like to address going forward.

### **MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Our phone conferences have continued to be popular with the membership, and serve as the primary way that we all stay in touch (emails/listserv is used sporadically). We've come up with a great list of topics to focus on in the upcoming year. Finally, our new chairperson, Elise Luce Kraemer recently accepted her appointment and will be stepping in at the upcoming NALP Annual Education Conference.

### **STATUS AND ACTIVITIES**

#### **Section Conference Call**

On March 27, 2008, the Section conducted its last conference call of the academic year. This conference call provided a reminder of upcoming programs and meetings at the NALP Annual Education Conference, provided a forum to discuss and share ideas for new programming, and allowed the membership an opportunity to think about topics and issues to be discussed/addressed in the future.

I informed the Section that the International Qualifications Directory has been tabled until there is new leadership at the NALP Foundation office. This decision was made at the suggestion of the NALP Board of Directors, and I believe it is an appropriate one. The Section Membership is interested in working on this project once the NALP Foundation is able to do so. We discussed not only updating the IQD, but also expanding it, and perhaps seeing if it could be published online (or CD-Rom).

The topics that the Section brought up to address going forward are:

1. Perhaps forming an affinity group for the law school members that have bundled duties of LL.M. counseling/J.D. counseling for international law, and study/work abroad issues. This seems to be a common bundling of duties in many law schools, and is a substantial subset of the general Section membership.
2. The use of social networking groups to stay in touch with students/alumni on both the law school and law firm side (i.e., Facebook, LinkedIn, etc.). Is this a trend? How have people used such sites effectively? Any best practices?

3. A continued desire to increase firm-side involvement with the Section. Our membership recognizes that neither the law school nor law firm side works in a vacuum, and membership from across the divide is necessary. We are trying to think of ways to encourage law firm membership in the Section.
4. Marketing/Promotion of LL.M. students to law firms/employers? How are members accomplishing this? Are there opportunities to increase this given the economic downturn? Should this be done on a school-to-school basis, or as a Section – encouraging LL.M. hiring across the board?
5. With the growth of international law firms, students (J.D. and LL.M.) now want help in contacting international law firm recruiters, and in navigating the international job market. In fact, many students now expect this of their career services personnel. What resources exist for providing international assistance for our students who wish to work abroad?

Finally, the Section discussed both informal and formal get-togethers for the 2008 Annual Education Conference in Toronto, Canada. The following times were discussed:

1. Wednesday, April 16, 2008 the Section will meet *informally* for a social-lunch meeting during the NALP Networking Lunch scheduled from 12:30pm-1:45pm. We've traditionally met socially during the Annual Education Conference, and wish to continue that tradition so that we can all meet face to face. We've found such meetings to be beneficial to our cohesiveness (and to encourage members to feel comfortable calling upon each other for advice/assistance throughout the year). I will post a note on the official message bulletin board at the conference (in the Westin) on Tuesday evening so the membership knows exactly where we will be lunching.
2. Friday, April 18, 2008, the Section will meet *formally* for our Section Meeting at 3pm, in the Queen's Quay room. Elise Luce Kraemer will officially begin her leadership of the Section during this meeting.
3. Domestic Opportunities for LL.Ms: Expanding the Possibilities is the LL.M. Section's program to be presented during the conference. It will be on Friday, April 18, 2008 from 1:45-3:00pm, and the membership has been encouraged to attend.
4. Other presentations which were highlighted as of interest to our membership include:
  - a. Counseling JD/LLB Students for International Opportunities (April 17, 2008, 8:30am-9:45am); and
  - b. Navigating the World of Work Visas (April 17, 2008, 10:15am-11:45am)

#### Section Discussions via Email/ListServ

This is unchanged: There is minimal use of the ListServ. It is still my hope that Section members will increasingly use the ListServ throughout the year rather than mainly discussing LL.M. issues on the quarterly conference calls.

#### Annual Education Conference RFPs

Section members were advised to start thinking about proposals for the 2009 Annual Education Conference to be held in Washington, DC.

#### Bulletin Proposals

No new bulletin proposals have been submitted.

## **STRATEGIC GOALS AND CHALLENGES FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR**

I am looking forward to a smooth transition of leadership of this Section from myself to Elise Luce Kraemer. Of high priority for the Section is continued work on the International Qualifications Directory. The other issues that I see as of almost universal concern in the upcoming year are: increasing visibility of LL.M. students in the job market, particularly as the economy is in decline, and continued efforts to increase law firm membership within our Section.