

To: NALP Board of Directors

From: Michelle Stevens, Chair, NALP Public Service Section

Date: July 2, 2007

Re: First Quarterly Report

The Public Service Section held its annual meeting at the NALP Conference in Keystone, CO on April 27, 2007. The minutes of that meeting were provided to the NALP President, Gihan Fernando, and Deputy Director, Fred Thrasher, immediately after the NALP Conference. These minutes were also shared with the Public Service Section E-Mail Discussion List through a “hidden” website link on the W&L Law website.

WORK GROUP REPORTS

Publications Work Group

There were no volunteers to chair this work group at the NALP Conference meeting. On a work group conference call held on June 12, 2007, Michelle Mohr Vodenik (Chicago-Kent) volunteered to chair the Publications Work Group. Other members of this group are Betsy Kane, Sean Rhiney and Joan Tierney.

The proposals ultimately submitted were the following titles/authors:

- 1) Firms Sponsoring Split Summers by Teresa Bryant – August 2007
- 2) Transitioning From Public Interest Attorney to Public Interest Advisor by Hillary Exeter – October 2007
- 3) The NLADA Employer LRAP Directory by Kate Lang (submitted by Steve Grumm) – November 2007
- 4) It Doesn't Happen in a Day: A Guide to Growing a Small Public Interest Program, Building Institutional Support and Developing as a Public Interest Professional (tentative title) by Karen Comstock – December 2007
- 5) The Convergence of Career Planning and Academic Internships by Dena Baumann and Teresa Schmiedeler – January 2008
- 6) What Aspiring Federal Lawyers Need to Know About Background Checks by Timothy McManus (submitted by Steve Grumm) – February 2008
- 7) Student Practice Rules: What You Should Know Before Sending Your Student Out of State This Summer by Paula Nailon – March or April 2008
- 8) Job Mobility Between the Private and Public Sectors by Elizabeth Kane and Joan Tierney – May 2008
- 9) The E-Guide to Public Service at America's Law Schools: What's In It for Me? by Heather Wells Jarvis – June 2008

In addition to submitting these NALP Bulletin article proposals, the Publications Work Group has scheduled a July 6th deadline for the review of first round edits to all chapters for the updated edition of the *NALP Law School Guide to Public Interest Careers*. After these edits are completed, Steve Grumm, Janet Smith and Michelle Stevens will complete final edits, and the new version should be ready for purchase approximately August 2007.

Public Service Mini-Conference Planning Work Group

Steve Langerud (Iowa) volunteered to chair this work group. The group held an initial conference call on May 31. With the 2007 Equal Justice Work Conference & Career Fair being held on a weekend (Oct. 6 and 7) and Catholic University hosting a public interest law conference on October 5 and 6, this year's mini-conference will be held on October 4 at Arnold & Porter with two events to be held on October 5 at Georgetown, "Public Interest 101" and a "Law Student/Public Interest Employer Forum" (see below for information on this program being organized by a separate work group).

The mini-conference will begin with Registration at 8:30 and will continue with the Public Service Section Meeting from 9:30 to 10:45. The meeting will be followed by a PSLawNet update and then lunch and the *Pro Bono Publico* Award Presentation. Following lunch and the award presentation, a plenary session will be held on work in international public interest law led by Sara Rakita (NYU). This session will focus on "training the trainers" – equipping law school career advisors to counsel students, plan programming, etc. on opportunities in the international arena.

Three breakout sessions will be held after the plenary. While these sessions have not yet been finalized, the following ideas have been suggested:

- 1) Demystifying Public Interest Law Firms: What and Where Are They? – Deb Ellis (NYU)
- 2) Idea... What advisors need to know about federal security clearances/background checks – Nicole Vikan (Georgetown)
- 3) Idea... Expansion on the international plenary – Sara Rakita (NYU)

Law Student/Public Interest Employer Forum Work Group

This group is being co-chaired by Hillary Exeter (Fordham) and Maya Crawford (Lewis & Clark). They held a conference call on June 21 to begin organizing the forum that will be held in conjunction with the Public Service Section Mini-Conference on October 5 at Georgetown. The group defined goals for the forum, discussed potential participants, logistics and discussion topics.

The goals defined were as follows:

- 1) To facilitate candid dialogue among public interest law students, civil legal services employers, and law school public interest advisors;
- 2) To identify means by which public interest organizations can educate students about access to justice, and otherwise engage students on issues affecting the civil legal services community;
- 3) To engage students about the importance of developing leadership skills and the means by which to do so;
- 4) To allow students to share questions and concerns they have about pursuing a career in civil legal services and related employment settings (policy work, impact litigation, community economic development, etc.)

Anticipated Forum Participants are:

- 1) Law students – 20 to 40 students, with the goal of achieving geographic, gender, ethnic and law school diversity;
- 2) Employer Organizations – 7 to 12 representatives from a geographically diverse group of organizations.
- 3) Law School Professionals

Forum Logistics/Format:

- 1) Forum will be hosted by Georgetown University Law Center
- 2) Date is Friday, October 5
- 3) Forum will be two hours long
- 4) Format will be moderated discussion between all participants

Potential Discussion Topics:

- 1) Quality of life/quality of practice issues
- 2) Addressing concerns that young attorneys can't make change in civil legal services positions
- 3) Addressing increased mobility among younger attorneys (switching jobs more often than their predecessors)
- 4) Salary/debt issues

NALP Conference Programming Work Group

The work group, chaired by Karen Comstock (Cornell), submitted the following RFPs for the Annual Education Conference in Toronto:

- 1) Creating, Building and Strengthening a Law School Pro Bono Program
- 2) Public Service Projects for Incoming Class (working title)
- 3) Coaching Students Through the Post-graduate Fellowship Application Process
- 4) Maximizing Your Public Interest With a Scholars Program
- 5) A Beginner's Guide to Public Interest Counseling
- 6) Fostering Partnerships: Private Sector Funding of Public Interest Initiatives
- 7) Alternative Winter/Spring Break Trips (working title)
- 8) A Candid Dialogue Between Law Firms and Law Schools on the Impact of Pro Bono in the Hiring Process

New Initiatives Work Group

The New Initiatives Work Group is being lead by Alexa Shabecoff (Harvard). She is continuing in her work with Tom Maligno (Touro) to spearhead an effort to better align public interest employer recruitment efforts, and to possibly get them on a similar hiring timetable as large firm employers. The group has designed a survey for employers to gauge their ideal timetables and to float the idea of having a uniform timetable, which has been approved by the NALP Board. Steve Grumm will be asking for the assistance of NLADA and LSC to solicit public interest employers to complete this survey.

Work Group Developing Law Student Recruitment/Supervision Best Practices Resources for Public Service Employers (in collaboration with NLADA and LSC)

This group has not yet "met" as other groups are working on more time-sensitive issues with the NLADA and LSC.