

Memorandum

Date: October 26, 2012

To: NALP Board of Directors
Cc: Terri Karpish; Leeann Beggs
From: Marketta Jokinen
Subject: Canadian Section Report on Working Groups

The following is an update from the Canadian Section on the activities of the Working Groups.

In addition, Terri Karpish, the Canadian Regional Representative, and I continue to coordinate our efforts. It is my understanding that she is also submitting her Report from the Canadian Regional Representative to the NALP Board of Directors today. In her Report she notes that there will likely be some movement towards proposing another Working Group in the Canadian Section to coordinate the Canadian OCI Calendar. I will therefore not cover that discussion in my Report.

Canadian Section Working Group Reports

1. NALPConnect Working Group (formerly the Collaboration and Information Exchange Working Group)

Vice Chairs: Emily Orchard (University of Toronto) and Bibi Bysterveld (Faskens - Vancouver)

Working Group Members (confirmed): Valerie Dufour (Borden Ladner Gervais – Montreal), Emily Finn (Fraser Milner Casgrain – Vancouver), Shannon Leo (Norton Rose – Toronto), Robyn Marttila (Western Law), Erin Wilcott (Aikins MacAulay & Thorvaldson – Winnipeg).

Mandates:

The members of the Working Group have confirmed their membership. They are scheduling a conference call to occur in the next few weeks to discuss the Group's mandate and any possible additions to that mandate.

Oversee the Submission of Bulletin Articles and RFP's for the Annual Education Conference

Part of the Group's mandate is to oversee the submission of Bulletin articles and RFP's from the Canadian Section. They have confirmed that two Canadian Section members will submit Bulletin articles:

- Iva Kadic submitted an article to be published in the November issue; and
- Anne Mundy-Markel will submit an article to be published in the April issue.

In addition, Lianne Krakauer's RFP was accepted for the 2013 Annual Education Conference. She will present a session on career development for the law school and law firm professional.

2. Summer and Articling Recruitment Working Group

Vice Chairs: Jennifer Lau (University of British Columbia) and Frances Mahil (Davies Ward Phillips and Vineberg – Toronto)

Working Group Members: Ari Blicher (Aird & Berlis – Toronto), Mya Bulwa (Osgoode Hall), Maryanne Forrayi (University of Calgary), Stacy Keehn (University of Ottawa), Nancy Stitt (Gowlings – Toronto)

Mandates:

The Summer and Articling Recruitment Working Group continues to review recruitment activities and issues across the country.

viDesktop Portal

The viDesktop portal is currently being used to collect articling and summering applications in Toronto, Montreal, Calgary and Vancouver. The Vancouver market used the portal this year for the first time to collect 2nd year Summer 2013 applications with 10 firms participating. The Calgary market expanded its portal use this year with 7 firms collecting 1st year Summer 2013 applications and 10 firms collecting 2nd year Summer 2013 applications. The Calgary and Vancouver employers which used the portal reported positive feedback and increased application numbers.

The Working Group will continue to work with viDesktop to discuss creating separate “tabs” or sub-portals for the different markets to avoid confusion for students applying to different cities at the same time.

Implications of Law Society of Upper Canada Taskforce on Articling

The Law Society of Upper Canada recently released its final Articling Taskforce Report. The LSUC's recommendation is as follows:

The majority of the Task Force recommends that Convocation approve a pilot project that will allow articling and a new Law Practice Program (LPP) to operate side by side for five years. While articling would continue to be the route through which most candidates become licensed, the LPP, which would include both a skills-training program and a co-operative work placement, would provide an alternative path to licensing.

The Working Group will meet in the near future to discuss the Report and whether it has any implications on summer and articling recruitment.

3. Canadian Directory of Legal Employers Working Group

Vice-Chairs: Maryanne Forrayi (University of Calgary) and Nicole Lecours (Stikemans – Calgary)

Working Group Members: Cori Ghitter (FMC – Calgary), Robyn Marttila (Western Law), Catherine Bleau (Osler – Montreal), Chiara Woods (University of British Columbia), Clea Ward

(University of New Brunswick), Erin Wilcox (Aikens MacAulay & Thorvaldson – Winnipeg), Kara Sutherland (FMC – Toronto)

Mandates:

The Group's next meeting will take place in November with a focus on expansion of employer participation in the use of the CDLE.

Review of the CDLE Form

The group's work since the last NALP Board Report focused on reviewing the CDLE form and providing revised suggestions to NALP, mainly focusing on clarifying language to be inclusive of recruitment across Canada including Atlantic Canada and Quebec. Recommendations were made to slightly adjust language in select questions to address this. Other minor revisions were suggested to clarify information submitted by employers and to address consistency with the aim of providing clearer information to students. In addition, it was recommended that the hire-back rate field not be locked down after December but allow for updating throughout the year. Osler has generously offered to provide translation of the agreed to changes once confirmed by NALP. A meeting will take place on October 22 with NALP to discuss potential implementation of the Working Group's recommendations.

4. Diversity Working Group

Vice-Chair: Alison Cowan (University of Victoria)

Working Group Members: Leeann Beggs (Queens University), Catherine Bleau (Osler – Montreal), Carol Chestnut (Stikemans – Vancouver), Anna DeCia-Gualtieri (University of Windsor), Emily Finn (FMC – Vancouver), Thelma O'Grady (Bull Housser & Tupper – Vancouver), Emily Orchard (University of Toronto), Jane Price (University of Toronto)

Mandate:

Canadian Diversity Summit

The Diversity Working Group has started making plans for a Canadian Diversity Summit which will hopefully take place in December 2013 in coordination with the NALP Winter Meeting in Toronto. The Working Group is in the early stages of planning but is meeting regularly as they get started on this project.

5. End of the Year Canadian Section Meeting / NALP Winter Meeting Working Group

Vice-Chairs: Patti MacDonald and Alison Cowan

Working Group Members: Kari Abrams (Blakes - Toronto), Mya Bulwa (Osgoode Hall), Andre Bacchus (Heenan Blakie – Toronto), Chantelle Courtney (Davies - Toronto), Joanne Clarfield Schaefer (Bennett Jones - Toronto), Kara Sutherland (FMC - Toronto)

Mandate:

NALP Winter Meeting

The Working Group has been meeting by conference call about every two weeks over the last couple of months. They have finalized the agenda and confirmed all speakers for the meeting, which is being held on Friday, November 30, 2012 at Bennett Jones, with the members' reception being held the evening before at Gowlings. Vice-Chair Patti MacDonald is acting as the NALP liaison and continues to coordinate the logistics for the meeting. Registration for the meeting opened on October 18.