



Staff Memorandum

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE Agenda Item #13

Attached are liaison reports from Edwina Martin with respect to the Steven C. Krane Special Committee on Loan Assistance for the Public Interest and the Young Lawyers Section.

Liaison Report

To: Kathy Baxter

From: Edwina Frances Martin

Re: Steven C. Krane Special Committee on Loan Assistance for the Public Interest (SLAPI) Report

Date: January 14, 2013

Following is an update on activities of SLAPI (taken from the article prepared for the January 2013 NYSBA Pro Bono Newsletter):

The Steven C. Krane Special Committee on Student Loan Assistance for the Public Interest (SLAPI) was created in the summer of 2001 to review the impact of law school indebtedness on the ability of government and public service employers to attract qualified attorneys to undertake careers in public service, and to develop a plan to assist new attorneys in pursuing public service careers by reducing indebtedness. The Committee has a two-fold focus: to provide financial assistance to mid-level government and public interest attorneys burdened with large educational debt (who are less likely to qualify for federal loan repayment assistance), and to educate attorneys and employers on loan repayment assistance options.

To further its education mission, SLAPI co-hosted two webinars on loan repayment in 2012, in March and November. The webinars were geared towards public interest/government attorneys out of law school three (3) to six (6) years, and government and public interest employers, to help educate them on developments in the loan repayment assistance landscape, in particular regarding federal government loan repayment programs available. The webinars were co-hosted with Equal Justice Works, a public interest advocacy organization which pioneered the area of loan repayment assistance education, and with Heather Jarvis, an experienced consultant on loan repayment issues.

In 2012, SLAPI, in conjunction with the NYSBA Bar Foundation, also awarded new loan repayment assistance grants of \$4,000 – the first such grants awarded since 2008 – to four mid-level public interest attorneys, and in 2013 there will be three (3) SLAPI grantees:

Michelle De Mareo

Staff attorney Michelle De Mareo, also a 2012 SLAPI grantee, is a ten (10) year employee with Monroe County Legal Assistance Center (MCLAC) in Rochester. Ms. De Mareo represents low-income individuals and families, many of who are disabled and at risk of homelessness. Ms. De Mareo defends low-income tenants and families in private and subsidized housing in eviction proceeding throughout Monroe County. In addition she represents tenants in administrative hearings to preserve their rental subsidies, such as Section 8 Housing benefits.

Jeffrey Hogue

Jeffrey Hogue has been with Legal Assistance of Western New York, Inc., since January 2000, after graduating from Cornell Law School. He is a supervising attorney and represents low-income clients in the areas of housing, education, and family law. He is also a regional technology coordinator, coordinating technology policy and implementation of innovative technology tools for use by advocates and clients as part of LawHelp.org/NY, receiving a NYSBA Denison Ray Award for his work in this area in 2010.

Kelly McGovern

Kelly McGovern is a Staff Attorney with Legal Assistance of Western New York, Inc., drawn to the office from her experiences as an AmeriCorps paralegal with the office prior to law school, and as an AmeriCorps Equal Justice Works Legal Fellow with the program immediately following law school. Since September 2008 she has represented clients in the areas of employment and public benefits. Legal Assistance of Western New York covers a large geographical area, and Ms. McGovern has been able to work in offices in several counties, allowing her to “[draw] upon [her] root and [her] rural upbringing when working with clients, treating each client the way [she] would treat a neighbor.”

The 2013 SLAPI grant recipients will be announced during the NYSBA Annual Meeting in New York City on Monday, January 21st at 10:00 a.m. For more information on SLAPI, loan repayment awards, or on upcoming loan repayment webinars, please contact Gloria Herron Arthur, Esq., Director, NYSPA *Pro Bono* Affairs, (518) 487-5641; garthur@nysba.org. More information regarding loan repayment is also available on the SLAPI webpage at [http://www.nysba.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Steven C Krane Special Committee on Student Loan Assistance for the Public Interest Home](http://www.nysba.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Steven_C_Krane_Special_Committee_on_Student_Loan_Assistance_for_the_Public_Interest_Home).

Liaison Report

To: Kathy Baxter

From: Edwina Frances Martin

Re: Young Lawyers Section Report

Date: January 14, 2013

Following is an update on activities of the Young Lawyers Section:

- Membership Numbers – 4,910; goal is 5,000 – as of 1/11/13 (90 short of goal)
- Annual meeting –
 - i. Co-sponsoring Women in the Law program luncheon (Ruth Shapiro)
 - ii. Table at diversity reception on Monday
 - iii. Wed. 1/2 day CLE and Young Lawyer Award
 - iv. Thurs-Fri annual Bridge the Gap program
 - v. Co-sponsor of President's forum as well
- 4th Annual Trial academy in March, at Cornell Law School – a number of NYSBA leaders are participating
- Next year – 75th anniversary of the YLS, beginning to plan for it
- YLS Section Civics Prize for HS Students – 1st year, new initiative of the Chair, working with judicial districts on outreach to HS applicants, goal to highlight the importance of civics in school curriculum
- June – U.S. Supreme Court Admissions Program again
- Diversity:
 - i. Updating diversity plan
 - ii. Has a diversity chair
 - iii. Partners with specialty and minority bars and offers scholarships to programs
- Mentoring program:
 - i. Began planning approx. 1.5 years ago; has been functioning for 1 year
 - ii. Progressive program – began with pairing YLD members with 1L students at Cardozo
 - iii. Goals: help 1Ls through law school; reach students at an earlier point than most mentorship programs begin; exposure to NYSBA; increase membership in the long-term
 - iv. Requirements – keep obligations minimal; do events at the law school; only 1 in-person meeting required
 - v. Road blocks: closing program was during finals so turnout was poor; people wanted more events; wanted to pair with Hofstra as well but could not find mentors
 - vi. What helped the most – working with school admissions office

- vii. The unknown – how the program will shift in emphasis as students move to 2Ls and 3Ls.
- Continued Challenges:
 - i. Turn out for section events
 - ii. Past problem with Bridge the Gap CLE program and direct competition from NYSBA.