



### Diversity Pipeline Initiatives Committee

Wednesday, January 9, 2013 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

Present: Paula Edgar (Chair), Sarah O'Connell (Secretary), Venetta Amory, Richard Best, Gabrielle Brown, Cassandre Charles, Shabbir Chaudhury, Tina Coco, Carlos Dávila-Caballero, Bernard, Dufresne, Veronica Dunlap, Tanya Facey, Lissette Fernandez (via teleconference), Kendrick Harris, Cynara Hermes, Elise Jaffe (via teleconference), Kelli Johnson, Alfreida Kenny, Supria Kuppuswamy, Rachel Littman (via teleconference), Edwina Martin, Katelin O'Rourke Gorman, Swati Parikh, Sonji Patrick, Ray Reyes (via teleconference), Nate Saint-Victor (via teleconference), Amee Sampat, Nubiaa Shabaka

#### Feedback from LSAT/Law School Prep Series

More than 130 students from 71 schools across the country attended the first two days of the series and additional students were expected to attend the networking fair. Thirty law schools were slated to attend the networking fair. The students that attended were mostly juniors and seniors, as well as recent graduates. The feedback from the students was overwhelmingly positive. There was some feeling that at the end of the day the students were exhausted, especially during the panel presentations. Gabrielle mentioned that for next year she may consider changing the order of certain panels or splitting them up between seminars. Many committee members commented on how wonderful Sheila Boston was as the keynote speaker. Barbri funded the program, and this year was the first year that the program had a sponsor. Some funds from the Barbri contribution went to fund law school prep scholarships that were raffled off to participants. \$50,000 worth of LSAT preparation was raffled off to attendees, as well as three iPods from Barbri, and several participating schools provided application fee waivers to attendees.

#### Winter Programming

**ASAFE/NYC Bar Securities and Finance Law Seminar Series.** This year the committee, in conjunction with ASAFE is presenting a securities and finance law seminar series for diverse law students. The workshops will take place at the City Bar on **January 25, February 1, February 8, March 22, March 29, and April 5**, with a reception on **April 5**. The workshops take place between 4-7 pm and each session will have a networking component. Second and third year students in law schools in New York area law schools are invited to apply. Committee members and their colleagues are encouraged to attend the sessions; we hope to have as many professionals attend as possible to network with the students following each session. Gabrielle has also circulated the information for this series, again, please share the information with your networks. If you are interested in participating, or know a colleague that would be interested in doing so, please advise Gabrielle.

**Law Preview Scholarship Program.** Law Preview offers a pre-law boot camp program for students admitted to law school. The program does not conflict with any law school's summer or orientation program. The students who participate in Law Preview almost universally also participate in their law school's orientation program. Previously, firms could sponsor scholarships at one specific school, and the only schools in the New York region that provided scholarships were Columbia, NYU, and Fordham. Last year, the City Bar/PALS Scholarship Program provided

thirteen scholarships to diverse students at all remaining NY area law schools. This year, the City Bar and PALS hope to partner with law firms or individuals to sponsor at least 25 scholarships. Scholarships cost \$1250 (the program fee at cost) and can go to a student at any of the participating schools. In addition to their scholarship, recipients are enrolled in the PALS program, become law student members of the City Bar, and receive Barbri study aids throughout law school. Firms or individuals who purchase a scholarship can connect with the student or designate the law school for the recipient to attend. Feedback from last year's scholarship recipients after their first semester is expected soon. The application process for scholarships begins in January. Committee members who are interested in reviewing applications should contact Gabrielle. A luncheon for scholarship recipients will be held in March or April, and committee members will be encouraged to attend. Gabrielle will send a letter to committee members to circulate to people or organizations who may be interested in sponsoring scholarships.

### **Best Practices Forum**

At the meeting, copies of the Best Practices Report "Expanding the Pipeline to the Legal Profession for Diverse College Students & Recent Graduates – Post-Conference Report," were circulated to the committee. The report is also available online at the following link:

<http://www.nycbar.org/images/stories/pdfs/sleop/bestpractices.pdf>

The committee members present brainstormed ideas for this year's Best Practices forum; the focus this year will be on law school. Ideas included bar passage rates, writing, gender differences, and attrition. Gabrielle asked committee members to circulate ideas for potential topics and speakers as well as partner organizations with which we should collaborate on the event by **February 1st**.

### **2013 TMSLI**

A copy of the tentative calendar for the 2013 TMSLI program is attached. Please circulate the calendar to your contacts who may be interested in participating. Committee members are encouraged to attend all events, especially pre-employment training, the opening reception, speed networking and the diverse career opportunities panel. We need to begin recruiting employers and job-shadow week hosts. Committee members should contact Katelin with any questions. The committee members suggested putting together a marketing packet including testimonials from student participants. The application is currently live and closes on January 31. If you refer students to the program, they should mention the committee member as a reference on the application. If you have any questions about the application process, please contact Gabrielle. Committee members are also asked to submit suggestions for a speaker for the closing ceremony.

### **Subcommittees**

The subcommittees met briefly to discuss action items and next steps.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be on **Wednesday, February 13, 2013** at 8:30 am. We will circulate the agenda prior to the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

This meeting was followed by our Committee Get-Together (also held at Chadbourne & Parke)