

February 24, 2020

Hello NAPLA Members and Colleagues,

On behalf of the NAPLA Board, I hope your Winter Term or Spring Semester is going well. I'm writing to update you about the many exciting things the NAPLA Board is working on this winter and spring. Although NAPLA takes a break from presenting an annual conference every four years to allow our members to attend the PLANC Conference, it has still been a busy year with lots of things happening:

- Boston Connect is coming in March
- Nominations for NAPLA Board Members to serve 2020-2022 will open soon
- NAPLA's Four-Year Strategic Planning Process is underway
- PLANC 2020 Conference will be held this June
- Planning for NAPLA's June 2021 Conference is in process
- Scholarships are available for NAPLA members to attend PLANC 2020

The Northeast Association of Prelaw Advisors, or NAPLA, will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2023! For those of you who are not well-acquainted with NAPLA, it is the oldest pre-law advising association in the nation. The organization promotes the professionalism and development of pre-law advisors with the intention of ensuring the delivery of optimal pre-law advisement services. NAPLA supports this goal by creating and identifying opportunities for advisor education, clarifying professional standards, advocating for the interests of pre-law advisors and applicants, and developing and increasing lines of communications among pre-law advisors, law school admissions officers, and others seeking to ensure the provision of the best quality pre-law advising.

Membership is open to a broad range of people concerned with pre-law advising. Faculty or staff associated with appropriately accredited two- or four-year colleges; faculty and administrative officers of accredited or provisionally-accredited law schools; representatives of nonprofit organizations whose purpose relates to legal education and independent pre-law advisors who meet certain requirements.

If you have ideas for how to mark our **upcoming 50th anniversary**, or would like to be involved in the planning, stay tuned for announcements on how you can contribute to this endeavor.

Our 8th Annual Boston Connect event takes place on March 13th at Suffolk University School of Law in Boston. We hope you can join us for this very affordable one-day workshop. Connect events provide an opportunity to gather with other pre-law advisors, admissions representatives, and legal education and law school admissions organization professionals for a program and networking. NAPLA membership is not required to attend Boston Connect. This year's program includes a morning session on diversity in law school admissions, an afternoon session where AccessLex Institute will share feedback it has received from applicants regarding how they learn about law school resources and a reception where you'll have a chance to meet and engage with colleagues. It's a great opportunity to find out more about what NAPLA has to offer and get to know others in a smaller setting conducive to conversation. Please [register now](#) on our website and encourage a colleague at your institution to attend with you. It's a great, easy way for newcomers to become acquainted with NAPLA. The \$35 program registration fee includes breakfast, lunch and snacks. Parking is available for an additional \$25. Suffolk Law School is

conveniently located adjacent to the Park Street T Station on the MBTA, directly across the street from the Boston Common. If you have questions, please contact Boston Connect Chair & NAPLA Secretary Lauren Dropkin at ldropkin@brandeis.edu

We hope you are considering attending the **PLANC 2020 Conference** this June in New Orleans. This national conference occurs every four years and brings together colleagues from the six-regional pre-law advising associations, or APLAs, across the country. This year's conference theme is "*Recovery and Growth: Best Practices and Creative Approaches in Pre-Law*" and will take place June 8-11, 2020. [More information and registration can be found here](#). NAPLA will award a limited number of **scholarships** to pre-law advisors from our region. Please see the next paragraph for more information. The conference is a great opportunity to meet and learn from colleagues across the country at the largest gathering of pre-law advisors and admissions professionals in the country. If you will be joining us in New Orleans, please plan to attend NAPLA's Annual Business Meeting which will be held during the conference. In addition to hearing about the work NAPLA has engaged in, you'll meet the candidates for next year's NAPLA Board positions.

We are pleased to be able to offer **several partial scholarships (up to \$1,000) for the PLANC Conference**. To apply, you must be a pre-law advisor (faculty or staff) associated with an appropriately accredited two- or four-year college or university at the time of application. Preference will be given to those who have never attended a PLANC Conference before and who work within the NAPLA geographic region. See our [Scholarship Page](#) for more information. **The application deadline is March 31, 2020.**

Speaking of conferences, NAPLA is pleased to announce that **our June 2021 conference** will be hosted by The University of Richmond School of Law in Richmond, Virginia. An official announcement will be coming soon with more details and the conference dates.

NAPLA needs YOU! Have you ever considered taking the next step in your professional advancement to become a leader in our professional association? In addition to putting your knowledge and commitment to work in the service of promoting and improving pre-law advising and services to applicants, serving on the NAPLA Board will increase your advising knowledge, lead you to develop new skills and expand your leadership competencies. Besides, it's a talented, hardworking and fun group to be part of! The nominating process will get under way soon and self-nominations are always welcome. Board members will serve a two-year term running from September 1, 2020-August 31, 2022. The Board meets 3 times per year and travel and meals are reimbursed for these meetings. Please contact any of our Board members, or me, if you would like to find out more. Look for an email with more information to come.

Although NAPLA is not presenting an annual conference this year, the Board is busily engaged in **strategic planning** to create a blueprint for our goals for the next four years. Every four years we engage in this exercise, examining the state of NAPLA and developing plans of action to ensure the strength, viability, and potential of our organization to best serve our members and constituents. This year's planning aims to update and strengthen our communications and programming, benefits for members, and the effectiveness and focus of our advocacy efforts. We have created six working groups led by the following board members:

- 1) Communications – Michelle Yingling, University of Pittsburgh
- 2) Annual Conference – Lauren Dropkin, Brandeis University

- 3) New Pre-Law Advisor Training – Phil Mink, George Mason University
- 4) Membership – Rita Ralston, Boston University
- 5) Connect Events – Heather Frederick, Slippery Rock University
- 6) Advocacy – Alex Jablonski, Binghamton University

If you have questions about this process or a comment you wish to share, contact NAPLA 1st Vice President Rita Ralston at rcallaha@bu.edu.

Thank you for your interest in learning about NAPLA and your engagement in and support of our organization. We value your contributions and feedback and I look forward to seeing many of you at Boston Connect and the PLANC Conference in June. If you have questions or comments, please contact me at ngibson@bowdoin.edu or 207-725-3729.

Best Wishes for a great spring semester!

Regards,

Nancy Gibson
NAPLA President