NALP / Street Law
Legal Diversity Pipeline Program

Progress Report

2009-10

NALP
THE ASSOCIATION FOR LEGAL CAREER PROFESSIONALS

STREET LAW INC™

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"At the beginning, I couldn't see myself working in a place like this; now I can see it."

- participating high school student

Participants and Program Design

This year law firms in five cities partnered with six high schools to introduce a diverse group of students to legal career pathways. Each law firm also collaborated with a local law school (see box at right). More than 250 students studying government, history, and law at partner high schools participated in the program. Law firm and law school volunteers taught students about the law and the legal profession, provided advice about legal careers and education, led law-themed workshops, and hosted field trips. Program volunteers hope to increase diversity in the legal profession by encouraging young people of color to pursue legal careers.

First, volunteers visit high school classrooms and introduce students to a specific area of the law. Then students attend a field trip to the law firm to apply the skills they have learned through interactive legal simulations and problem solving. Student participants in this pipeline initiative are given the opportunity to experience what lawyers do and to learn about how the law impacts society.

This year's volunteers made 41 visits to 11 high school classes. They taught lessons on various topics including real estate, contracts, trademarks, and immigration. Street Law and NALP staff provided lesson plans and workshop guides as well as support to volunteer teams throughout the course of the program. More than half of the volunteer teams used Street Law lessons and workshop curricula, while the remaining teams used original lessons which they created.

Workshop activities included:

- a presidential review of airport security that required students to design a security plan that protected passengers' Fourth Amendment rights while maintaining adequate security
- a real estate negotiation that required students to represent the interests of a city council and a private buyer in a real estate negotiation

Participating Law Firms

Bilzin Sumberg
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
Miami, FL
With University of Miami School of Law

Holland+Knight
Washington, DC

HUNTON & WILLIAMS
Richmond, VA
with William and Mary Law School

KIRKLAND & ELLIS LLP
San Francisco, CA
with Stanford Law School and Berkeley Law School

WLRK
WACHTELL, LIPTON, ROSEN & KATZ
New York, NY
with New York University School of Law

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Program Participants

- 275 high school students
- 135 volunteers
- 19 lessons taught in 41 class visits

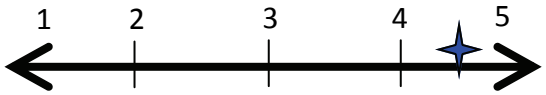
- an immigration activity that asked students to argue an asylum hearing
- contract negotiations around a variety of issues

Each of the classroom lessons and field trip workshops involved students in legal simulations that teach both legal content and skills, a component that is key to helping students envision themselves in the legal profession. As students played the roles of lawyers in solving complex problems, volunteers were able to make comparisons between the activities and the "real world."

Networking and Enhancement Activities

In addition to learning about areas of the law, students learned about the breadth of career opportunities available to lawyers and other legal professionals. Each of this year's law firm field trips included a career or networking activity.

How well did you like the workshops & career activity at the conference?



Average student response (on a scale of 1-5):

- **Workshops—4.53**
- **Career Activity—4.56**

Several sites played Legal Career BINGO, featuring educational and professional information about volunteers. Others sites held business card exchanges or networking lunches. Students were all encouraged to maintain contact with the legal professionals they spoke with.

In addition to classroom lessons and law firm visits, more than 60 of this year's high school participants experienced additional activities designed to provide further resources.

Hunton & Williams (Richmond, VA) hosted a college admissions day during the fall, which featured admissions representatives from area colleges and universities, an essay workshop, and a financial aid session. Students and volunteers from Bilzin Sumberg Baena Price &

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Axelrod (Miami, FL), Hunton & Williams (Richmond, VA), and Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz (New York, NY) each visited their partner law schools, and Kirkland & Ellis (San Francisco) plans to host a similar enhancement activity next year. These law school field trips included informational admission sessions lead by undergraduate and law school admissions representatives, law-themed workshops, and campus tours. Students were able to eat lunch with current students, and in some cases meet law school professors and deans.

Impacts

Students, teachers, and volunteers agreed that this year's programs were stimulating, enlightening, and a lot of fun. While students enjoyed the hands-on aspect of the activities, teachers were pleased with the educational quality of the workshops, and the volunteers were impressed with the students' abilities and the enthusiasm with which they threw themselves into the complex legal problems, scenarios, and negotiations.

On average, students gave the workshops and career activities a score of 4.55 on a scale of one to five. When asked whether other students in their school should have the opportunity to participate in this program an overwhelming majority of students responded positively.

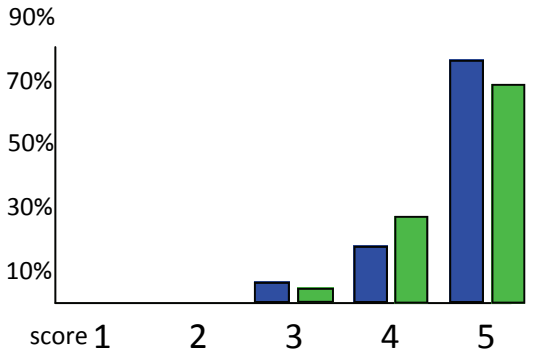
While students identified a variety of program activities as their favorites, many reflected on the value of working with law firm volunteers and visiting a law firm. For example, one student said,

> "I think the best part of the conference was lunch. Not because of the food, but because we actually got to get to know the lawyers in the building and find out what we had in common with them."

Others described working with volunteers saying,

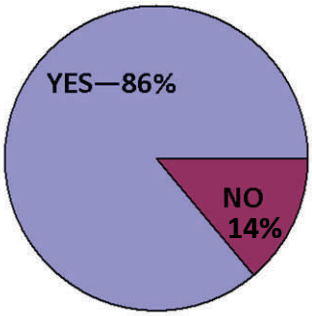
- "The feedback was really useful because they taught us how to analyze."

How well did you like the workshops & career activity at the conference?



Percentage of students, rating workshops (blue) and career activity (green) on a scale of 1-5, where 5 is the highest.

Are you more interested in a legal career now than you were before the program?



What was the **best part** of the conference ?

"My favorite part was being able to argue and have the opportunity to know and see things from a lawyer's point of view."

"My favorite part of the program was at the firm organizing my facts and support and finally executing the response."

"Just having the chance to experience a real law firm."

"The best part was just basically meeting the lawyers and the activities and the food."

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What was the **most important** thing you learned today?

"That there are many different kinds of jobs in the legal field."

"That being a lawyer doesn't mean you argue a lot in court and have clients all the time, but there are a lot of other areas to work on."

"I learned that I can major in anything and I can become a lawyer."

"I learned that you don't have to let where you come from affect where you are going."

"The most important thing I learned is that not only lawyers work in law firms."

- "The best part was actually being in the shoes of a lawyer. For once, it opened up a door which I can see law as a profession."
- "You guys were awesome!"

More than 86% of the students reported that they were more interested in pursuing a legal career after the program than before. One student responded,

> "I am definitely more interested now than I was before. I am also more confident in my ability to actually become a lawyer and excel in the field."

2010-2011 Academic Year

As we embark on the third year of the Pipeline Program, current partners look forward to growing and strengthening their programs and new partners are eager to cultivate lasting relationships with local high schools.

The NALP/Street Law Legal Diversity Pipeline Program has space for additional law firms during the 2010-2011 academic year.

Street Law and NALP provide connections to local classrooms, in-person training for all participants, a complete program guide and extensive web resources- including ready-to-use lesson plans and event activities. Street Law and NALP staff members also provide support to all participating firms throughout the program.

For more information and a copy of the 2010-2011 Prospectus, please contact::

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"My students' participation ... is not only a valuable opportunity to gain a hands- on experience and insight about our legal system but also a chance for my students to envision a possible future for themselves as a legal professional."

- participating teacher

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