

NALP 2016 Annual Education Conference

Creating Clerkship Connections: Judicial Networking Strategies for You and Your Students

Ideas to Network with Judges and Encourage Your Students on a Month-to-Month Basis

January

- **Conduct Mock Interview Program**
 - Spring mock interview program usually has large 1L student participation. Invite alumni and retired Judges to serve as mock interviewers.
- **Contact local federal judges**
 - Contact law clerks and confirm Judges will participate in Spring and Fall Recruiting Programs to receive applications for externship positions (volunteer or academic credit).
- **Send correspondence to out-of-town Judges for Spring and Fall Recruiting Programs**

February

- **Become involved in the Federal Bar Association (FBA)**
 - The FBA's San Diego Chapter has monthly no-cost Brown Bag Luncheons featuring a district or magistrate judge. The featured judge typically discusses effective litigation practices (trial and law & motion), differences between state and federal court practice, and chamber rules and tips for newer attorneys. The session always ends with Q&A and an opportunity to network with attendees. The FBA also holds an annual dinner honoring incoming and outgoing law clerks, and a day-long continuing legal education conference.
- **Prepare students for Judicial Clerkship Program**
 - Each February, law schools may send students to attend the ABA Judicial Clerkship Program. The Program brings together up to 100 minority law students from around the country with Judges and former law clerks. The group participates in panel discussions, a research and writing exercise, and informal social events. These activities are designed to introduce and reinforce to the students the reasons and values of pursuing a judicial clerkship. Numerous students have obtained clerkships and externships as a result of their participation.

March

- **One-on-one meetings with Judicial Law Clerk candidates (conduct meetings throughout the year)**
- **Become involved in an ethnic or affinity bar association**
 - Every ethnic and affinity bar association includes members from the judiciary. Join a few associations and get involved. For example, the South Asian Bar Association in San Diego holds a "Chai Chat" in chambers featuring several local Judges.
- **Attend alumni receptions**
 - Work with the Alumni Office to plan regional alumni receptions where career advisors are able to network with alumni Judges, law clerks and staff attorneys in many large cities, including New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, and Las Vegas.

April

- **Judicial Clerkship promotion for rising 3Ls**
 - Create email list of 2Ls and 3Ls interested in pursuing judicial externships and clerkships based on attendance at Judicial Externship/Clerkship Seminar. Use this list to promote state and federal judicial externship and clerkship opportunities for summer and fall and following year.
- **Attend NALP Conference**
- **Attend Graduation and greet Judges in attendance**

May

- **Arrange to be at Faculty Meeting in June or July to discuss Judicial Clerkship reference writing and process**
- **Host 3L Law Review Dinner and promote judicial clerkships**

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June

- **Conduct Judicial Clerkship and Fellowship Outreach to 3Ls**
- **Host 2L Law Review Dinner to congratulate students and to promote broad summer job search, including judicial externship opportunities**
- **Help students prepare applications for American Inns of Court**
 - Certain Inns allow for student membership, which provides a great opportunity to socialize and network with experienced lawyers and Judges.

July

- **Plan Diversity Mixer**
 - Work with the Student and Diversity Services Office to plan a Diversity Mixer where Judges, lawyers and law students from ethnic and affinity bar associations come together to celebrate diversity and network with each other. Or plan an Employer Appreciation Event and invite Judges and their law clerks.

August

- **Work with the American College of Bankruptcy to present a career panel on campus.**
 - The Annual Bankruptcy Career Panel features at least two local bankruptcy Judges and local practitioners.

September

- **Request Judges Contact List**
 - In late September, email court clerks to request updated contact lists for Judges and law clerks.
- **Attend Annual Meet Your Judges Mixer hosted by local bar association**

October

- **Order Holiday Cards for Judges or prepare e-cards**
- **Encourage students to volunteer at Judicial Conferences**
 - The National Association of Women Judges Annual Conference (2014), Ninth Judicial Circuit Conference (2015) and the ABA Mid-Year Meeting (2016) were recently held in San Diego. Law students were able to volunteer at the conferences and network with many Judges.

November

- **Judicial Clerkship Program for 2Ls**
 - Make sure Judicial Clerkship Handout is updated to include correct timelines and password info for Vermont Law School Guide to State Judicial Clerkships.
 - Plan to present a Judicial Externship/Clerkship Seminar twice per year and invite current judicial law clerks to be guest speakers.

December

- **Attend holiday parties hosted by local bar associations**