

NALP JUDICIAL CLERKSHIP SECTION

Quarterly Report to the Board of Directors

April 12, 2010

Submitted by: Sheila Driscoll, George Washington, Chair

The section had a productive year and is looking forward to the annual conference in Puerto Rico. Below is a summary of our accomplishments and some updates from the work groups since the last Board report submitted in February.

Conference Programs and Articles

The Section is looking forward to the three programs that were selected for next year's conference:

1) Clerkships Off The Beaten Path -- Submitted by: *Beth Wickwire, Michigan; Hanna Stotland, Northwestern and Toni St. John, Maryland.*

2) America The Beautiful – Exploring Our Country Through State Court Clerkships— Submitted by: *Melissa Lennon, Temple; Lorri Olan, Washington & Lee and Michele Hoff, Connecticut*

3) OSCAR (Online System for Clerkship Application and Review): Season Review and Look Ahead – Submitted by: *Marilyn Drees, Yale and Sheila Driscoll, George Washington*

Articles that were been published are:

[The ABCs of Clerkship Research: Tailor the Search to Maximize Fit](#) (March 2010)

Developing an intelligently tailored search can help a student find a judicial clerkship - and, more important, find one that's a good "fit."

Author: Lorri Olan

[Handling Alumni Applicants for Judicial Clerkships](#) (February 2010)

Identifying, assisting, and tracking alumni judicial clerks can seem a bit like trying to herd cats, but there are benefits both for the alumni and for the school. Here are some suggested strategies.

Authors: Susan Staab, Kirsten Solberg

[Lateral Judicial Law Clerks: A Brief Analysis of Current Trends](#) (January 2010)

Many judges are seeking experienced lawyers to fill clerkship positions, but law firms will not always be in a position to guarantee departing associates a position upon completion of a clerkship.

Authors: Deborah Kerker Herman, Jessica Heywood

[Tips for Increasing State Judicial Clerkship Applications](#) (October 2009)

With federal judicial application deadlines just past, now is the time to look at ways to encourage state judicial clerkship applications in the coming year.

Authors: Alisa M. Rosales, Cybele Smith

The section looks forward to the following additional article that is scheduled for publication this spring:

International Students and Clerkships by Beth Wickwire and Chris Council Fritton (May '10 Bulletin)

OSCAR Work Group

The 2009-10 work group members are *chair Marilyn Drees (Yale) and members Rhonda Beassie (Houston), Sheila Driscoll (George Washington), Sonja Hayes (Stetson), Susan Staab (Chicago), Hanna Stotland (Northwestern), Katie Wilkinson (Tulane), and Matt Zimmerman (Georgetown)*. They report the following.

- The group has resumed biweekly conference calls with the OSCAR staff and has offered comments on the upcoming e-newsletter from OSCAR highlighting changes in Version 6.0, as well as email communications concerning archiving accounts and documents from previous hiring seasons.
- The new staff attorney module was made available to the group for testing in late March and extensive comments were provided in early April. No testing schedule has been given for other components of Version 6.0.
- Sheila Driscoll and Marilyn Drees are working with Magistrate Judge Arenas to finalize the OSCAR program at the annual conference.

State Court Work Group

Melissa Lennon (Temple), and Michele Hoff (Connecticut) are co-chairs. They report the following:

We are currently focused on preparing the materials for our conference presentation: America the Beautiful – Exploring the country through state court clerkships. For the presentation, we will have a power point and a document to distribute. The power point will include various testimonials from alumni and current clerks about the value of their clerkship and other information about the application process. The document, which will later be posted as a PDF on the Judicial Clerkship page of the NALP website, will include summaries of “tips and tricks” about the application and interview process in: Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, D.C. Local, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, New Jersey, Oregon, Rhode Island, Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Texas. We had a conference call to discuss all of these matters on Friday March 26, and another on Friday April 2. Our goal is to produce a final draft of the powerpoint and document by April 16.

Alumni/Lateral Work Group

Jessica Heywood (Catholic) is the chair.

As previously reported, the work group submitted an article published in the January NALP Bulletin about employer attitudes and practices regarding associates who leave a firm for a judicial clerkship. Jessica Heywood and her co-author Deborah Kerker Herman spoke to several law firms to collect advice and information about common practices.

Jessica reported during the section-wide conference call in February that they have had difficulty recruiting law firm volunteers to the work group, but she also noted that when she and her co-author conducted outreach for the Bulletin article, most firms were willing to share their practices anonymously. This sparked a more general discussion with the section members about the best focus for the work group, in light of the growing popularity among judges of law clerks with legal experience.

Miscellaneous/ListServ Topics

The discussions on the nalp-judclerk listserv have covered various topics.

Federal Law Clerk Hiring Plan Dates

The most recent topic has been dissemination of the new dates under the Federal Law Clerk Hiring Plan, reprinted here:

First date when applications may be received/accessed by judges:
10:00 am (EDT) Tuesday, September 7, 2010

First date and time when judges may contact applicants to schedule interviews:
10:00 am (EDT) Friday, September 10, 2010

First date and time when interviews may be held and offers made:
8:00 am (EDT) Thursday, September 16, 2010

Administrative Law Judge Hiring

There was also interest and discussion about the hiring practices of Administrative Law Judges. Specific hiring information was shared including last year's handout that I put together on ALJ Hiring for a presentation at the 2009 Conference in Washington, DC. Some members expressed interest in creating a more formal document that is more regularly updated and more easily accessible, and I am exploring that possibility with GW Law School and other schools.