

TO: Fred Thrasher, NALP Deputy Director
Diane Downs, Board Liaison
NALP Board of Directors

FROM: Melissa Lennon, Chair, Judicial Clerkship Section

DATE: January 26, 2012

RE: **Judicial Clerkship Section Quarterly Report**

This is a relatively quiet time in the judicial clerkship cycle. The time of database updates and conference room clean outs. There is not too much to share since the time of our last report, but here is what we have.

Work Group Status Reports

OSCAR (Chair, Marilyn Drees, Yale): Members of NALP's OSCAR Group were invited to attend the December meeting of the U.S. Courts' OSCAR Working Group. At this meeting, there was some discussion of alternative date structures for the Federal Law Clerk Hiring Plan. The group concluded, however, that the deadlines for 2012 will be similar to those in years past. The 2012 Federal Law Clerk Hiring Plan, therefore, states the following:

Sept. 4, 2012 (Noon Eastern): first date when applications may be received from 3Ls
Sept. 7, 2012 (Noon Eastern): first date when judges may contact to schedule interviews
Sept. 13, 2012 (10 am Eastern): first day to interview and make offers

It is interesting to note that the OSCAR Working Group made clear that judges participation in the plan is voluntary. They say, however,

Law schools and law faculty members will discourage potential law school applicants from submitting applications that will be received before the day after Labor Day of their third year of law school. The law schools will not facilitate the release of official law school transcripts and will discourage faculty members from sending letters of reference that will be received before the day after Labor Day of the third year of law school. The law schools will discourage faculty from making calls on behalf of law school applicants before that date.

The Courts' OSCAR Working Group now has responsibility over the Federal Law Clerk Hiring Plan dates going forward.

State Courts (Chair, Lorri Olan, Washington & Lee): The Insider Guide on State Court Clerkships includes reports on CA, CO, CT, GA, IL, IA, MD, NJ, NY OR, PA, RI, TX, VA and

D.C. The group awaits write-ups on Delaware, Florida, Michigan and Missouri. Requests for additional state reviews are made regularly. The resource is posted on the NALP website, under Professional Resources.

Bibliography/Track Programming: Lorri Olan and her staff have completed an update to the existing resource of the clerkship bibliography. This draft is being reviewed and the goal is to have an updated document on the NALP website by the time of the Annual Conference.

Section Communication

A webinar was organized on the topic of the use of the Symplicity Clerkship module, and it was held on January 6, 2012. Joe Patrick of Symplicity led the webinar and well over 50 NALP members participated. Topics covered included: general use of the module, how federal judges names and addresses are updated, whether state court judges could be added, available position in OSCAR, survey and interview evaluations and non-OSCAR participating judges.

There is great interest in adding state court judges to the clerkship module, but there are several challenges, the most significant of which is updating the records. Unfortunately, there is no national resource for this information. Schools could take the laboring oar on keeping state court judge information up to date, but that might present too much of a burden.

Member requests for modifications to the system will be gathered and communicated Symplicity.

Environmental Scanning & Miscellaneous

The OSCAR website now contains more direct communication from the U.S. Office of Administrative Courts OSCAR Working Group, particularly about the Law Clerk Hiring Plan.

<https://oscar.uscourts.gov/drupal/content/federal-law-clerk-hiring-plan>