

To: Jennifer Henfey, Board Liaison, NALP Board of Directors

Cc: Fred Thrasher, NALP Deputy Director

From: Michele Hoff, Chair, Judicial Clerkship Section

Date: June 26, 2019

Re: Judicial Clerkship Section Quarterly Report

Below please find a summary of the section's activities and concerns from this quarter.

I. Leadership Team

Section Chair	Michele Hoff, Georgetown University Law Center mh1845@georgetown.edu (202) 662-9612
Annual Education Conference, Bulletin Article and Webinar Planning Workgroup Co-Chairs	Jennifer Riedy Clark, University of Missouri School of Law riedyj@missouri.edu Alfred "AJ" Finch, University of Iowa School of Law alfred-finch@uiowa.edu
Federal Law Clerk Hiring Plan Workgroup Co-Chairs	Elizabeth Peck, Cornell School of Law ep83@cornell.edu Greta Trakul, University of Michigan School of Law gtrakul@umich.edu
OSCAR Workgroup Chair	Marilyn Drees, Yale marilyn.drees@yale.edu
State Court Workgroup Co-Chairs	Jennifer Pollard, University of Maryland School of Law jpollard@law.umaryland.edu Tamara Stephen, Brooklyn Law School tamara.stephen@brooklaw.edu
Strategic Planning Workgroup Co-Chairs	Kirsten Solberg, Harvard University School of Law ksolberg@law.harvard.edu Laura Woodson, University of Georgia School of Law lwoodson@uga.edu

II. Section Meetings

The section held an in-person meeting at the San Diego conference on April 10, a focal call to brainstorm about RFP/Bulletin article/webinar ideas on April 30 and a general section call on June 4. The workgroups provided the following updates:

- Annual Education Conference/Bulletin Articles Workgroup
 - Held brainstorming call on April 30 which generated some good ideas
 - Reviewed and submitted six terrific program proposals for the 2020 Montreal conference; informed lead speakers that decisions should be made by July 31
 - Generated and submitted six Bulletin article ideas for the coming year; still trying to confirm authors and/or co-authors for some of the articles slated for spring 2020
 - Thanked Julie McLaughlin for writing an article for the June Bulletin on how to help students navigate the federal clerkship hiring process this summer while working
- Federal Law Clerk Hiring Workgroup
 - Reported that everyone involved seems to be in a “wait and see pattern” right now, watching the OSCAR postings, preparing the Class of 2020 for the June 17 release date and waiting to see what really happens after materials go live to chambers
 - May opt to hold a focused call later in the year (perhaps September/October) to discuss how the plan impacted various constituents, including applicants, schools, and both private and public sector employers
- OSCAR Workgroup
 - Provided an update from the OSCAR Judges Workgroup meeting which was held May 16; the meeting established the exact release time for online applications online (noon ET on June 17th); our NALP workgroup members participated in conversations at the meeting focused on increasing the use of OSCAR and increasing the clarity of information shared on OSCAR
 - Provided an updated on the next generation of OSCAR which will launch in October 2019; our NALP workgroup members participated in a half day workshop with OSCAR staff on May 15 to view mock up pages of the new OSCAR platform and provide feedback; reported that OSCAR hopes to have the new system prototype in mid-August for our workgroup and other volunteers to test it out
- State Court Workgroup
 - Have been watching for changes in state court hiring practices in light of the federal court hiring plan; asked section members pass along news of any changes/differences that they observe from the state courts with which they work regularly, if there are any
 - Made a request for members to provide updates for the section’s Insight Guide (updates can be passed along in any form to the section co-chairs who will ensure they get incorporated into the guide)

- Strategic Planning Workgroup
 - Discussed the charge given to the group and a bit of background about the strategic planning process
 - Set up a focused call for the section on July 30; have put out a call for input and issues of concern to section members; have circulate the section's prior strategic planning memo for members to review

III. Environmental Scanning

A few topics that came up within the section this quarter are:

- Managing federal court clerkship interviews during summer work experiences – employers are concerned about how the interview timeline will impact work schedules; applicants are concerned about talking to their employers about interviews and about how to potentially juggle their work commitments around last-minute interview requests
- Impact of the federal clerkship hiring plan on state court hiring practices – are state courts going to change their hiring timelines or practices in light of the federal plan; are state courts going to see a change in the volume and/or type of applicant pool they receive; are potential applicants going to opt out of state court clerkships due to conflicting timelines for applications
- How will the federal court hiring plan actually unfold and will its timelines hold in the second year – there are just lots of questions surrounding the federal hiring plan; do judges that followed it like the result; will judges follow it in future years; what was the candidate experience and how will that experience impact the behavior of their fellow students in the Class of 2021 who are interested in clerking; how are employers impacted and will it impact post-summer offers of employment; were certain markets impacted more intensely than others; etc.

IV. Upcoming Section Calls

The section has planned the following future calls:

- Strategic planning call: Wednesday, July 10 at 12 p.m. ET/9 a.m. PT
- General section meeting: Thursday, September 26 at 2 p.m. ET/11 a.m. PT
- General section meeting: Wednesday, January 15 at 2 p.m. ET/11 a.m. PT