

To: Fred Thrasher, NALP Deputy Director
Jennie Zwagerman, Board Liaison
NALP Board of Directors
From: Maureen Kieffer, Chair, Judicial Clerkship Section
Date: October 11, 2017
Re: Judicial Clerkship Section Quarterly Report

Below, please find information about the Judicial Clerkship Section's activities, including section communication and updates from work groups.

Section Communication

On October 5, 2017 the Judicial Clerkship section held its second quarter conference call, during which members discussed work group updates.

Work Group Status Reports

OSCAR (Marilyn Drees, Yale):

We continue in conversation with the OSCAR staff about the next-generation OSCAR platform. They have concluded their user interviews with all the different stakeholder groups and are synthesizing their findings to be reflected in a Statement of Work. We were able to give them some additional context and feedback on the interviews with LSAs and applicants. Once the RFP has been announced and the OSCAR staff begins working with vendors, there will be additional opportunities for volunteers from NALP, and we will be coordinating with the staff to recruit and manage volunteers.

We also got a very nice vote of confidence from the federal judges' OSCAR Working Group. The judges' OWG is reworking its charter because a number of member terms are expiring. In the last charter revision, the law school representatives were divided, leaving two from NALP (with three law school deans/faculty). In this round, the charter is reverting to the original makeup, which means all five law school representatives will be from NALP (specifically, the NALP OSCAR Work Group). It is a real credit to the leadership of our two representatives, Susan Staab and Eric Stern, in maintaining and deepening that working relationship with the OSCAR staff and the OWG chair, Judge Tim Burgess. NALP President David Montoya has suggested the following members to Judge Burgess: Marilyn Drees (Yale), Rochelle McCain (Pitt), Julie McLaughlin (GW), Susan Staab (Chicago), Eric Stern (Berkeley). The annual meeting of the judges' OWG will be Feb. 22, 2018, and there are tentative plans for the NALP representatives also to spend a half day with the OSCAR staff on Feb. 21.

State Courts (Laura Woodson, University of Georgia School of Law; Samantha Kasmarek, Syracuse):

Laura Woodson is spearheading a comprehensive update of existing entries in the *Insight and Inside Information for Select State Court Clerkships* and has received several updates from group members (including Liz Peck, NY; Margaret Talmers, MA; Michele Hoff, CT; Jennifer Zwagerman, IA; Laura will do the Southeast (GA, SC, NC, FL, AL).

Sam Kasmarek has lead the effort to create a state court clerkship resource section on PSJD. The plan is to add this content under the Public Sector Career Paths section on PSJD and to follow

the format of what a clerkship is, what to do in law school to prepare, and resources for applying. Diane Fears has volunteered to assist in drafting this content.

Judicial Clerkship and Employer Relations Work Group (Michele Hoff, Connecticut; Marti Worms, University of San Diego School of Law):

The Judicial Clerkship and Employer Relations Workgroup conducted a conference call with the recruiting section on September 29, 2017. Of the firms/recruiters that joined the call, it seemed that while most firms love having law clerks they don't have a lot of public policies as they handle it on a case by case basis. Firms have expressed concerns with the timing of clerkships. There was discussion of going back to the OSCAR Hiring Plan because clerks are being chosen earlier and earlier and that throws a wrench into the onboarding at the firm. The group is considering a webinar about clerkships and employment, is planning for additional outreach calls throughout the year and is working on a helpful resource on common practices regarding clerkships and employer relations.

Programming and Resources (Tamara Stephen, Brooklyn Law School):

Tamara took over for Shavonne Henderson and will be focusing on a creating a resource increasing interest in judicial clerkships among diverse students in addition to the brochure created by the ABA and NALP. For the 2018 Annual Education Conference, the Judicial Clerkship Section submitted six RFPs and five were selected:

Title: Are you there, Faculty? It's me, the CSO: Leveraging Faculty in Pursuit of Judicial Clerkships

Presenters: Arturo Thompson (University of Kansas), Lisa Key (Mizzou), Jen Pollard (Maryland)

Title: Winning Strategies for Supporting Diverse Clerkship Applicants

Presenters: Michele Hoff (UConn), Liz Peck (Cornell) and Tamara Stephen (Brooklyn Law)

Title: Judicial Clerkship Advising for the Generalist - Tips for the Small CSO

Presenters: Jennifer Zwagerman (Drake) and Angela Cruseturner (Baylor Law School), Monica Gould (St. Thomas) and Samantha L. Ciriaco (Case Western)

Title: Put me in Coach! Strategies for Preparing Your Clerkship Advisees for the Interview Process

Presenters: Shavonne Henderson (The University of Texas School of Law), Jason Gray (Gonzaga, WA), Michele Hoff (UConn)

Title: OSCAR: The Next Generation ** proposed tentatively pending updates to OSCAR being ready for debut by April 2018**

Presenters: Marilyn Drees (Yale), Laura Simon (OSCAR Program Manager), Tyrus Manuel (Assistant OSCAR Program Manager & IT Specialist), and Timothy Burgess (U.S. District Judge and OSCAR Working Group Chair)

Bulletin Submissions for 2017-2018

Upcoming article in the November *NALP Bulletin*: “Building an Effective Tribal Court Clerkship Program,” Devra Sigle Hermosilla and Jason Gray

Webinars

We are in discussions with the Newer Professionals Section in joining their “Ask an Expert” webinar series to share information about clerkships.

Environmental Scanning and Miscellaneous [redacted]

Our next quarterly call is scheduled for Jan. 25, 2018, 2pm EDT, 1pm CDT, 11am PDT.