

To: Fred Thrasher, NALP Deputy Director
Lois Casaleggi, Board Liaison
NALP Board of Directors
From: Amy Killoran, Chair, Judicial Clerkship Section
Date: October 15, 2015
Re: Judicial Clerkship Section Quarterly Report

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

Section Communication

The Judicial Clerkship section held its quarterly call on Wednesday, September 30, 2015. Approximately 37 members participated in the call, which included discussion of RFPs that were accepted at the 2016 Annual Conference in Boston, work group updates, including a discussion about OSCAR access for rising 2Ls, and an open forum discussion about best practices for calling courts. In addition to a reminder about the next conference call, the section also announced an upcoming joint conference call with the Recruiting Section that will focus on the interplay of judicial clerkship and law firm hiring.

Work Group Status Reports

OSCAR (Susan Staab, Chicago):

Beginning June 1, 2015, OSCAR allowed rising second-year law students to register for applicant accounts with read-only access. Read-only access accounts allowed Class of 2017 applicants to view and research clerkship and staff attorney positions, upload application materials such as resumes and writing samples to the system, identify their recommenders, make use of OSCAR's folder system, and access extensive online resources. Class of 2017 students gained full system access on August 1, 2015. On this date, Class of 2017 applicants were able to start building online applications and submit them for consideration to judges and staff attorney offices with available positions listed.

The Director of the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts sent a memo to all federal judges on July 8, and copied the court unit executives. The memo announced OSCAR's 10-year anniversary, reminded judges that OSCAR is available year-round for law clerk hiring, and encouraged judges to maintain a current judge profile in OSCAR. The Office of Public Affairs posted a news article and On Topic video with Judge Burgess on the home page of the UScourts.gov website and on OSCAR (<http://www.uscourts.gov/news/2015/07/08/ten-years-online-clerkship-hiring>).

NALP followed up by sending a postcard in August to all judges encouraging judges to update and maintain a current profile.

The next Judges' OSCAR Working Group is November 6, 2015. In addition to the two NALP Representatives who are non-voting members of the Judges' OSCAR Working Group, Susan Staab (University of Chicago Law School) and Eric Stern (UC Berkeley School of Law), the Judges' OSCAR Working Group has also invited back the Judicial Clerkship section chair, Amy Killoran (Georgetown) and members of the NALP OSCAR Working Group and Federal Clerkship Hiring Timeline Working Group to participate in a discussion of the most recent hiring season and to provide feedback for an updated version of OSCAR.

State Courts (Greta Trakul, Michigan):

The State Courts Working Group continues to seek out updates for each of the existing entries in the *Insight and Inside Information for Select State Court Clerkships*, and will be conducting individual outreach to member schools in the states for which the Guide currently lacks information. Volunteers to assist with the updates and outreach to member schools are welcome.

Federal Clerkship Hiring Timeline (Greta Trakul, Michigan, and Michele Hoff, Connecticut):

While continuing to monitor the clerkship posting activity on OSCAR, the Federal Clerkship Hiring Timeline Working Group finalized and sent out to the membership a questionnaire aimed at gathering information about the current clerkship hiring trends and best practices. Although the response rate to the questionnaire was lower than in 2013, the Working Group received a good distribution of responses from members across the country. The Working Group is analyzing the data received and present key highlights to the Federal Judges' OSCAR Working Group at its annual meeting in November.

Programming and Resources (Maureen Kieffer, Loyola, and Diane Cross, Cincinnati):

Section volunteers have been continuing to update the *Federal Administrative Law Judges Post-Graduate Clerkship Hiring Guide* and are in the process of finalizing the guide, including updates and also re-formatting to a Word version. The volunteers anticipate completing the project by the end of October.

For the 2016 Annual Education Conference in Boston, the Judicial Clerkship Section submitted seven RFPs. The following five were selected:

1. **Creating Clerkship Connections: Judicial Networking Strategies for You and Your Students**, submitted by Jocelyn Salvatori, Shannon Schaab, and Ginna Galbraith Pastrano
2. **If At First You Don't Succeed, Apply Again! Motivating Students to Apply for Judicial Clerkships in a Post-Hiring Plan World**, submitted by Diane Cross, Julie McLaughlin, Erin Scherzer
3. **Judicial Clerks in the Job Market: Opportunities and Challenges for Employers and Counselors**, submitted by Marilyn Drees, Nicole Oddo Smith, Charlotte Wager

4. **Mastering the Rolling Federal Clerkship Process**, submitted by Amanda Furst, Michele Hoff, Shana Hansen
5. **Spotlight on Specialty Courts in the Northeast and Beyond**, submitted by Betsy DiPardo, Jaya Saxena, Katelyn Ellermann, Victoria Braga

In addition, Diane Fears published an article examining the intersection of diversity programs and clerkships in the September NALP Bulletin, and Janet Siegel Brown published an article related to behavioral interviewing in judicial clerkships for in the October Bulletin.

Environmental Scanning and Miscellaneous

Federal clerkship hiring continued over the past quarter for the 2016 and 2017 terms, with additional judges hiring for the 2018 term or beyond. State courts continue to proceed along their own timelines, with a good number actively hiring or having hired for the 2016 term, and some judges beginning their recruitment of law clerks for the term beginning in fall of 2017.

On November 3, the Judicial Clerkship and Recruiting sections will host a joint conference call that will provide an opportunity for an open dialogue between law schools and employers, focusing on best practices for working through questions and dilemmas that arise throughout the clerkship application and employment process.