

TO: Fred Thrasher, NALP Deputy Director
Melissa Lennon, Board Liaison
NALP Board of Directors

FROM: Amy Perez, Chair, Judicial Clerkship Section

DATE: June 18, 2013

RE: **Judicial Clerkship Section First Quarterly Board Report**

Following is a brief synopsis of our activities since the last board report:

Conference Calls

The Judicial Clerkship Section held its first quarterly conference call after the Annual Education Conference to discuss the status of RFPs, as well as work group leadership, volunteer opportunities, and charges for the new term.

The Judicial Clerkship Section also held a joint conference call with the Recruiting Section to discuss issues that law firms might expect to face as a result of the recent changes to the Federal Law Clerk Hiring Plan (see the OSCAR Work Group update below for more detail on these changes).

Annual Education Conference Programming/Bulletin Article Work Group

- Vice Chair: Samantha Williams, Arizona State University, Sandra Day O'Connor School of Law

The Section submitted the following six program proposals for the **2014 Annual Education Conference**:

Alumni Judicial Clerkships: They're here to stay ... if only for a year or two

Eric Stern, Amy Perez, Georgia Emery Gray

From Seattle to Secaucus: State Court Clerkships Today

Amy Killoran, Michele Hoff, Molly Stafford

Hot Topics in Judicial Clerkships

Amy Perez, Marilyn Drees

Opportunities in U.S. Tribal Justice Systems

Susan Schell

Successful Faculty and Alumni Partnerships in Judicial Clerkship Programs

Sheila Driscoll, Rémi Ratliff, Shannon Schaab

The Whole New World of Judicial Clerkships: Reaching Your Students Early and Often

Sonja Hayes, Greta Trakul, Melissa Lennon

The Annual Education Conference Programming/Bulletin Article Work Group is currently in the process of soliciting **proposals for NALP Bulletin articles**. So far we have one proposal from Susan Schaab of the John Marshall Law School for an article regarding the U.S. District Courts' 10-year Patent Pilot Project.

OSCAR Work Group

- Vice Chair: Susan Staab, University of Chicago School of Law

The OSCAR Working Group judges decided in April to advance the first date when applications may be received from third-year applicants from August 19, 2013 to June 28, 2013 and revert to a single date to receive applications, schedule and conduct interviews, and make clerkship offers. The OSCAR system will release all online third-year law school student applications on June 28, 2013 at 12:00 pm Noon (EDT).

After considering comments from judges and a dozen law school deans, the OSCAR Working Group judges decided to choose a date when the majority of the law schools' grades for second-year students would be final. In the event that some grades are not yet final by June 28, OSCAR Version 7 will allow those applicants to update their grade information even after they have finalized their online applications. This change has impacted member schools and employers. Schools had to change their internal processes, communicate with students regarding the change in dates and internal deadlines, and alert faculty to the need of completing recommendation letters far earlier than usual. Some schools, for logistical and timing reasons, have decided not to bundle paper applications this paper application cycle (please note the current wording of the Plan indicates that "*Hiring Plan participation by judges and law schools is voluntary*").

In informal conversations, some schools have reported a decrease in applicant numbers. Summer programs for employers have also been affected. Many students will have applications pending with judges or will be submitting applications to judges in June, in accordance with the new hiring plan date, while others will be coming to their summer jobs already committed to a judicial clerkship commencing in 2014 or later. Judges reviewing applications during the summer are likely to schedule interviews in June or July as well, which may present scheduling challenges for students and summer legal employers.

The anticipated date for the next meeting of the Judicial Conference's OSCAR Working Group is November 2013. The Judicial Conference's Oscar Working Group has traditionally

included two non-voting members from the NALP OSCAR Working Group (currently Susan Staab from The University of Chicago Law School and Eric Stern of Berkeley).

Finally, OSCAR Version 7 was launched in April 2013, featuring a new look and several new functional changes. The NALP OSCAR Working Group was involved in beta testing the new system and provided feedback to the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts ("AO"). Laura Simon, OSCAR Program Manager at the AO, presented on the new version of OSCAR 7.0 at the 2013 Education Conference in Tampa and answered questions from member schools and employers. She also attended the Hot Topics session on Clerkships and was able to clarify for members how the Administrative Office Judge's OSCAR Working Group functions and provide some insight to the change in the Federal Law Clerk Hiring Plan timeline. We were very fortunate to have Laura join us during those two programs.

Federal Clerkship Hiring Plan Work Group

- Vice Chair – Amy Killoran, Georgetown Univ. Law Center

After communicating at the NALP Annual Conference with membership about the continual state of flux of the current Federal Law Clerk Hiring Plan, several members, including Marilyn Drees and Amy Killoran, posted updates to various courts' timing on NALP Connect. Following the joint conference call with the Recruiting Section, the Federal Clerkship Hiring Working Group also disseminated information to public interest employers about the new June 28 deadline through PSJD's blog and through emails to public interest employers. Next quarter, the group will focus on drafting revised materials for NALP's website about the Law Clerk Hiring Plan, in addition to monitoring the hiring situation for 2014.

State Court Work Group

- Vice Chair: Molly Stafford, University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law

The *Insight and Inside Information for Select State Court Clerkships* resource has been updated during the first quarter, with **seven new states** added. The new sections cover Arizona, Florida, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio and Tennessee. Currently, this resource includes the following 25 states: AZ, CA, CO, CT, DC, FL, GA, IL, IA, MA, MD, MN, MO, MS, NE, NJ, NV, NY, OH, OR, PA, RI, TN, TX, and VA. We are half way there! We have also received updates for Iowa and Maryland. Requests for additional state reviews, as well as updates, will be made to NALP members during the second quarter. This resource is posted on the NALP website, under Professional Resources / Career Services / Resources for Judicial Clerkships.

Diversity and Inclusion Working Group

- Vice Chair: Jolynn Caroline, University of Illinois College of Law

NALP President Stacey Kielbasa has asked Jolynn Caroline to also serve as the NALP Liaison to ABA Judicial Division Standing Committee on Minorities in the Judiciary. In preparation for updating NALP's brochure currently titled "The Courts: An Excellent Place for Attorneys of Color to Launch Their Careers," Jolynn Caroline has been in contact with Hanna Stotland, who previously held the position while she was with Northwestern University School of Law. Jolynn also intends to meet with representatives of the ABA Standing Committee and the Just the Beginning Foundation this summer to obtain their input on the content for the brochure.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions regarding the above. Thank you for the opportunity to serve the Judicial Clerkship Section!

Amy G. Perez, Esq.

Student Development & Judicial Clerkships Director
University of Miami School of Law
Phone: (305) 284-1880
aperez@law.miami.edu