

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

FROM: Amy Perez, Chair, Judicial Clerkship Section

DATE: March 20, 2014

RE: **Judicial Clerkship Section - Fourth Quarter Board Report**

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

Quarterly Conference Call

The Judicial Clerkship Section held its third quarter conference on Tuesday, March 4, 2014. During the call, the Work Group Vice Chairs provided updates (see below) and we also used the time to begin brainstorming on Bulletin article and RFP ideas for the 2015 Annual Education Conference. Discussion was also had regarding changes in timing of clerkship programming in response to earlier hiring by federal and state judges. The call appeared to have been well attended by section members.

Post Card to Federal Judges

During the last term, Section Board Liaison Melissa Lennon spearheaded an effort to produce a postcard sent on behalf of NALP to all federal judges encouraging them to update their OSCAR profiles to make their law clerk hiring preferences known. The postcard includes language explaining why it is important for judges to maintain current OSCAR profiles, such as reducing the need for student inquiries to chambers and unwanted paper applications. The postcard also includes the OSCAR website address and help desk telephone number.

OSCAR Work Group & Federal Law Clerk Hiring Plan Work Group

Vice Chair: Susan Staab, University of Chicago School of Law (OSCAR Work Group)

Vice Chair: Amy Killoran, Georgetown Univ. Law Center (Hiring Plan Work Group)

As mentioned in the previous Board Report, the Federal Law Clerk Hiring Plan has been discontinued. First year law students will have access to OSCAR starting June 1, 2014 and full system access (to upload materials and start drafting applications) on August 1, 2014. This change is significant for NALP members in that clerkship hiring is now effectively a year-round endeavor. Member schools are in the process of revamping clerkship materials and programming to reflect these changes. As a Section, we have discussed how to manage students' expectations, and anticipation, of the August 1st date.

To further the judiciary's goal of creating a fair, orderly and transparent law clerk recruitment process, the OSCAR Judges' Working Group developed a list of Federal Law Clerk Hiring Best Practices. In a letter to Stacey Kielbasa, the Chair of the Federal Judges' OSCAR Working Group, Judge Timothy Burgess, asked NALP to provide best practices from the law schools' perspective for judges and law students. In addition, the Judges' Working Group asked NALP members to survey their alumni regarding "feedback and perspective for not only [OSCAR] system improvements but also best practices for the clerkship recruitment and hiring process."

In Stacey's response to Judge Burgess, she outlined that we will gather member feedback on best practices for law students and law school perspectives to share with judges about timing and other aspects of the judicial law clerk application process. Proposals of those best practice documents are currently in progress. Once the proposals are drafted, the plan is to post them on NALP Connect and allow roughly a month for member comment. We will also have copies available at the upcoming conference and anticipate member discussion on the documents during the Judicial Clerkships Hot Topics program and/or during the Section meeting. At the conclusion of the comment period, the Section Work Groups will collaborate on finalizing the documents and forwarding them to the Judges' Working Group, which will likely occur in early June.

The Section will also engage in further discussion with the Judges' Working Group regarding their interest in alumni feedback on OSCAR and the hiring process. Finally, we will continue to explore the possibility of collaborating on best practices for private and public sector employers regarding communications with summer associates/interns regarding judicial clerkships.

State Court Work Group

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

We anticipate receiving a number of updates and new additions to *The Insight and Inside Information for Select State Court Clerkships* during the first quarter of the next term. On our last conference call members tentatively committed to producing new summaries for the following states: AL, AK, DE, IN, NM, ND, and WA. 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.

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

We continue to solicit volunteers to assist with updating the brochure entitled “The Courts: An Excellent Place for Attorneys of Color to Launch Their Careers.”

Annual Education Conference Programming/Bulletin Article Work Group

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

The Section will put on the following three programs during the upcoming 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

There have been no Bulletin articles submitted on behalf of the Judicial Clerkship Section since the last Board Report.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the Judicial Clerkship Section during the 2013-2014 term!

Amy

Amy G. Perez

Student Development & Judicial Clerkships Director

University of Miami School of Law

Phone: (305) 284-1880

aperez@law.miami.edu