

To: Fred Thrasher, NALP Deputy Director
Lois Casaleggi, Board Liaison
NALP Board of Directors
From: Amy Killoran, Chair, Judicial Clerkship Section
Date: March 24, 2016
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

On Thursday, March 10, 2016, the Judicial Clerkship section held its fourth quarter conference call, during which members discussed work group updates and brainstormed ideas for RFPs and Bulletin articles for the 2017 NALP Annual Education Conference in San Francisco. More than 30 members participated in the call.

Work Group Status Reports

OSCAR (Susan Staab, Chicago, and Marilyn Drees, Yale):

The NALP OSCAR Working Group continues to work collaboratively with the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts (AO) OSCAR representatives on the current and future version of OSCAR, referred to as OSCAR II. The AO OSCAR representatives are using Basecamp, an online collaboration area, to share ideas, gather feedback, and track progress during the development of OSCAR II. All NALP OSCAR Working Group members and the Judicial Clerkship Section NALP representatives who participated in the November 2015 meeting also have access to Basecamp to collaborate as a team. The project is in the initial stages.

State Courts (Greta Trakul, Michigan):

The State Courts Work Group updated several existing entries in the *Insight and Inside Information for Select State Court Clerkships* and received offers from several members to update additional existing entries. We have asked for additional volunteers to update other existing entries to reflect the changes in hiring at the state court level in response to the earlier federal court hiring. We will continue to conduct 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.

Work Group member Roman Chaban at Catholic University spoke with PSJD representatives Christina Jackson and Yulin Jang regarding the possibility of using NALPconnect to house online applications to state court judges, and determined that PSJD has the mechanism in place to house the applications. He will next proceed to contact New Jersey's central hiring offices to explore their willingness to centralize applications through PSJD. The New Jersey court system was identified as an ideal test case due to their willingness to accept applications through their

own court website on a limited scale, the volume of judges who hire law clerks each year, and the fact that they advertise the availability of clerkships widely to law schools across the country.

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

The Federal Clerkship Hiring Timeline Working Group continued to monitor federal court clerkship posting and hiring practices this quarter. The Working Group is also preparing to provide feedback to the Administrative Office of the Courts on the new, updated version of OSCAR. As part of that effort, the Working Group reviewed the draft federal design standards that will hopefully be used to guide the selected vendor in its design of the OSCAR II system.

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

Section volunteers finalized the updates to the *Federal Administrative Law Judges Post-Graduate Clerkship Hiring Guide*, including hiring information updates, re-formatting to a Word version, providing contact information via excel to assist with applications, and information regarding agencies that hire attorney advisers in lieu of clerks. The resource was posted on NALPconnect in mid-February.

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

1. Wed., April 13 at 10:45, Mastering the Rolling Federal Clerkship Process, Amanda Furst, Michele Hoff, Shana Hansen
2. Thurs., April 14 at 9:00, Creating Clerkship Connections: Judicial Networking Strategies for You and Your Students, Jocelyn Salvatori, Shannon Schaab, and Ginna Galbraith Pastrano
3. Thurs., April 14 at 10:45, If At First You Don't Succeed, Apply Again! Motivating Students to Apply for Judicial Clerkships, Diane Cross, Julie McLaughlin, Erin Scherzer
4. Fri., April 15 at 10:30, Spotlight on Specialty Courts in the Northeast and Beyond, Betsy DiPardo, Jaya Saxena, Katelyn Ellermann, Victoria Braga
5. Fri., April 15 at 1:45, Judicial Clerks in the Job Market: Opportunities and Challenges for Employers and Counselors, Marilyn Drees, Nicole Oddo Smith, Charlotte Wager

In addition, Diane Fears published a column examining the intersection of diversity programs and clerkships in the September NALP Bulletin, Janet Siegel Brown published a column related to behavioral interviewing in judicial clerkships for in the October NALP Bulletin, Shana Hansen published a column on preparing for judicial clerkship application success in the November issue, Michelle Hoff published a column on pathway programs to judicial clerkships in the January NALP Bulletin, and Jaya Sayena and Amanda Furst published a joint article with the Public Service Section on Counseling Public Interest Students on Gap Year Clerkships in the March NALP Bulletin.

During the March 10 section conference call, members began brainstorming RFP and Bulletin topics; Maureen Kieffer has agreed to again spearhead the collection of RFPs until she takes over as Section Chair in April.

Environmental Scanning and Miscellaneous

Federal clerkship hiring continued over the past quarter for the 2017 term, with an increasing number of judges hiring for the 2018 term or beyond and a limited number of judges hiring for the 2016 term to begin this fall. State courts continue to proceed along their own timelines, with a good number having finished hiring for the 2016 term, and an increasing number of judges, especially in state highest courts, beginning their hiring of law clerks for the fall 2017 term.