

To: Alison Ashe-Card, Board Liaison, NALP Board of Directors

Cc: Fred Thrasher, NALP Deputy Director

From: Laura E. Woodson, Chair, Judicial Clerkship Section

Date: October 18, 2021

Re: **Judicial Clerkship Section Quarterly Report**

Below please find a summary of the Section’s activities and concerns from this quarter.

I. Leadership Team

Section Chair	Laura Woodson, University of Georgia School of Law lwoodson@uga.edu (706)542-4832
Annual Education Conference, Bulletin Article and Webinar Planning Workgroup Vice-Chairs	Elizabeth Crane, University of South Carolina School of Law ecrane@mailbox.sc.edu Stephanie Black, New England Law sblack@nesl.edu
Federal Law Clerk Hiring Plan Workgroup Vice-Chairs	Greta Trakul, University of Michigan School of Law gtrakul@umich.edu
OSCAR Workgroup Vice Chair	Marilyn Drees, Yale marilyn.drees@yale.edu
State Court Workgroup Vice-Chairs	Jennifer Pollard, University of Maryland School of Law jpollard@law.umaryland.edu Tamara Stephen, Brooklyn Law School tamara.stephen@brooklaw.edu
Member Relations Workgroup Vice-Chairs	Janet Siegel Brown, Northwestern University School of Law jbrown@law.northwestern.edu Todd Rogers, University of Colorado Law School todd.rogers@colorado.edu
Knowledge Management Workgroup Vice-Chair	Alfred “AJ” Finch, University of Iowa School of Law alfred-finch@uiowa.edu

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Clerkship Hiring Workgroup Vice-Chairs	Andrea Saavedra, Columbia University School of Law acs2126@columbia.edu Amy Nixon, University of Chicago School of Law anixon@uchicago.edu
Judicial Workplace Conduct Workgroup Vice-Chairs	Eric Stern, University of California, Berkeley, School of Law estern@law.berkeley.edu Elizabeth Peck elizabethkpeck@gmail.com 607-339-7712

II. Section Meetings

The Section held a Zoom meeting on Thursday, October 14, 2021. The following topics were covered:

- Board Report – Section members are encouraged to update their demographic profiles with NALP and to consider nominating yourself or your colleagues for leadership positions in NALP.
- Knowledge Management – No report.
- Member Relations – Janet Brown highlighted the Nuts & Bolts of Judicial Clerkship Advising program that she and Todd Rogers conducted for the Section and others on September 17 and reported good feedback from that program.
- State Courts – Tamara Stephen reported that they have information for all but 9 states for the Section’s Insight and Inside Information for Select State Court Clerkships Guide (an updated version of which was posted on October 6 on NALP Connect) and invited volunteers to research and provide info on the following still missing states: Hawaii (thank you for volunteering, Fairuz Abdullah), Idaho, Montana, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Vermont. Also anyone with updated information about their state court hiring cycles is invited to provide updates for existing states in the Guide.
- AEC Proposals & Bulletin Articles – Elizabeth Crane shared that five RFPs for the AEC were submitted for consideration and selections of RFPs should be coming out shortly. They are working on planned articles for the NALP Bulletin.
- Federal Law Clerk Hiring – Greta Trakul shared that we are still waiting for the federal judges to make an announcement about whether to continue the Hiring Plan for the Class of 2024 and forward.
- OSCAR – Marilyn Drees has left Yale and is now at Texas in a different capacity so Susan Staab at Chicago gave a report noting that the OSCAR Workgroup has a meeting with judges on November 2 to discuss updates based on the recent user survey.
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – Andrea Saavedra reported that they are working with the main NALP DEI Section on statistics for the Class of 2020 but that no information is

yet available for that class. They are considering surveying members to collect more specific data for use in the meantime to address the charge given to this work group.

- Judicial Workplace Conduct – Liz Peck reported that two of the five RFPs submitted for this year’s AEC from our Section addressed Judicial Workplace Conduct issues. She and Eric Stern continue to communicate with the people in the circuits who are responsible for addressing workplace conduct issues and with people associated with the Office of Judicial Integrity to try to increase awareness of these issues and make clear how people should report and address these issues. She noted that she plans to attend a symposium at Kansas Law School on Judicial Ethics on November 5 that was announced to the Section.

Throughout the quarter, the Section’s workgroups were busy working on other projects, including:

- RFPs for Annual Conference - The Section submitted five RFPs for the 2022 AEC, including (1) Engaging with the Judiciary – Prospects and Pitfalls; (2) judicial Workplace Misconduct & Underrepresentation in Chambers – Are Outside Groups the Answer?; (3) Meet the First Responders for Judicial Workplace Challenges; (4) Mind the Gap! Counseling Alumni Clerkship Applicants; and (5) The Politics of Clerkships: How Social Activism and Judicial Ethics can Coexist.
- Nuts & Bolts of Judicial Clerkship Advising – On September 17, 2021, Member Relations Vice-Chairs Janet Brown and Todd Rogers conducted a webinar for section members and newer professionals about how career services professionals can advise and guide law students through the judicial clerkship application and interview process. This webinar was well attended with as many as 46 live attendees and many more who have viewed the presentation in video, audio, or PowerPoint forms posted on the Judicial Clerkship Section NALP Connect page.
- Insight and Inside Information for Select State Court Clerkships Guide - An updated version of this amazing resource was published to the Section on October 6. This is a great resource for Section members advising students on seeking state court clerkships nationwide.
- Bulletin Articles – The Section has several Bulletin articles planned for publication later this year or early next year.

Looking forward, the Section will be working on:

- Accepted 2022 AEC Proposals
 - The Section had accepted four of the five RFPs submitted for the 2022 AEC. The presenters of the accepted presentations will get to work preparing for the presentations and working with non-Member presenters on their parts.
- Upcoming Bulletin Articles – The Section will be submitting several articles for the NALP Bulletin later this year or in 2022:
 - November 2021 edition (submission deadline Sept. 15): Meredith Wiggins, *Rural Clerkships*
 - March 2022 (deadline Jan. 17, 2022): Felipe Alonso and Eric Stern, *Employer Assessment Findings*

- May 2022 edition (deadline March 15, 2022): Katie Overberg and Chris Teague, *Finding Alliances for Small/Solo CSO Offices Without a Dedicated Judicial Clerkship Advisor*
- June 2022 (deadline April 15): Meredith Wiggins, *Magistrate Court Clerkships*
- Update to Federal Administrative Law Judges' Post Graduate Clerkship Hiring Information – The Section Chair will put together a committee to update this resource from 2016. Michele Hoff and Todd Rogers have volunteered to work on this committee.

III. Environmental Scanning

Many of the concerns that came up within the Section this quarter include:

- Handling enthusiastic (but way too early) 1Ls and their questions and preparation for post-grad clerkships. The class of 2024 seems way more informed on clerkships than last two classes and many want counseling in 1L year on clerkships. Section members discussed how to handle this trend.
- Addressing misinformation obtained by law students through social media (specifically Reddit) and overcoming the presumption that what they read online is true. Social media misinformation is rampant. Members suggested various ways to address this, including Truths & Myths programs and using trusted students and young alumni (peers) as presenters.
- The long-term effect of virtual counseling and presentation practices started during the pandemic. Some members are finding the continuing virtual presentations and interviews to be a positive thing and others not so much.

IV. Upcoming Section Calls

The Section will hold its next quarterly general meeting on Thursday, January 20, 2022, at 2:00pm Eastern. Additional small group meetings may also be scheduled to discuss focal topics in the coming months.