

To: Fred Thrasher, NALP Deputy Director
Lois Casaleggi, Board Liaison
NALP Board of Directors
From: Maureen Kieffer, Chair, Judicial Clerkship Section
Date: June 30, 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 June 15, 2016 the Judicial Clerkship section held its first quarter conference call, during which members discussed work group updates and brainstormed ideas for Bulletin articles.

Work Group Status Reports

OSCAR (Marilyn Drees, Yale):

The NALP OSCAR Working Group continues to work collaboratively with the OSCAR Program Office on the current version of OSCAR (OSCAR 7.8) and the planned future version of OSCAR (OSCAR II). Members completed beta testing of the upgrades in OSCAR 7.8 in late May, shortly before the upgrades were launched on June 1. OSCAR 7.8 is fully operational for current users. The Class of 2018 will gain full access to OSCAR on July 1, 2016.

The group has scheduled a conference call with the OSCAR Program staff on June 29 to learn more about the development process and timeline for OSCAR II.

State Courts (Diane Cross, Cincinnati):

The State Courts Work Group will continue to update existing entries in the *Insight and Inside Information for Select State Court Clerkships*.

Work Group member Roman Chaban at Catholic University spoke with PSJD representatives regarding the possibility of using PSJD to house online applications to state court judges, and determined that PSJD has the mechanism in place to house the applications. Roman has reached out to the New Jersey judiciary to see if they may be willing to participate, but has not been able to reach a contact with the authority to move forward. The section discussed reaching out to National Center for State Courts or the Conference for Chief Judges. Roman is going to discuss best practices with PSJD on reaching out to employers and also discuss the possibility of posting clerkships with some Chief Judges of states that have an organized hiring system and report back.

Judicial Clerkship and Employer Relations Work Group (Michele Hoff, Connecticut):

The group will focus on producing resources relevant to employers recruiting/hiring current, former, or future clerks, as well as spearheading an annual conference call with the Recruiting

Section. The group would like to create a guide similar to the *Insight and Information State Court Guide* on common practices in the market with respect to clerkship hiring and counseling. The group is also discussing surveying employers. The group has several volunteers, but would like additional volunteers. They will have a call in mid-July to discuss the agenda for the group.

Programming and Resources (Stephanie Powell, Mercer):

For the 2017 Annual Education Conference in San Francisco, the Judicial Clerkship Section submitted seven RFPs. The Section submitted five article proposals for the NALP Bulletin.

RFPs

Engaging Faculty to Maximize Clerkship Success! Sheila Driscoll, Janet Siegel Brown, Andrew Bradt

Filling the Gaps in Clerkship Recruiting, Michele Hoff, Julie McLaughlin, Elizabeth Klein

Judicial Clerkships for (Nearly) Everyone! Best Practices and Resources to Market State Court Clerkships to the Skeptical Student, Diane Cross, Samantha Kasmarek, Bill Chamberlain

Mining for Gold: How to Find Hidden Clerkship Opportunities in California, Eric Stern, Mishkah Ismamil

OSCAR Sneak Peek: A New Platform for a New Generation, Marilyn Drees, Laura Simon, Tyrus Manuel, The Honorable Timothy Burgess

Using Technology to Reinvigorate Clerkship Advising, Betsy DiPardo, Nicole Pitman

Winning Strategies for Supporting Diverse Clerkship Applicants, Michele Hoff, Tamara Stephen, Elizabeth Peck

Bulletin Submissions for 2016-2017

Judicial Clerkship Letters of Recommendation: Holistic Advising for Key Players: (Column will focus on how career services can work with students, faculty and employers to secure tailored letters of recommendation), Shana Tomenes, Scheduled for September 2016

Clerking as a Career: (The column will discuss career (permanent) judicial clerkships, including how they differ from term clerkships, why they are a worthwhile career choice, and paths to/from career clerkships.), Janet Siegel Brown, Scheduled for November 2016

How to Handle Judges' Questions on the Other Side of the Bench: (Column will provide various interview scenarios that candidates have faced and counseling tips to assist students.) Maureen Kieffer, Scheduled for January 2017

Clerkship Applications for Newly Appointed Federal Judges (column), Marilyn Drees and Elizabeth Peck, Scheduled for February 2017

Careers in the Courthouse: Beyond the Bench and Clerking: (Column will discuss “alternative” career options within the courthouse that law grads may typically fill), Stephanie Powell; Co-author TBD, Scheduled for July 2017

Webinars

We plan to discuss and hopefully schedule webinars after the RFPs are selected for the annual conference. Potential ideas that have been suggested outside of non-selected RFPs include “What is a clerkship and why does it matter?” (geared toward the recruiting section for those who may not be familiar with clerkships and their value) and “OSCAR for Beginners” (to help those new to clerkship advising).

Environmental Scanning and Miscellaneous

Federal clerkship hiring for 2017-18 continues with OSCAR reflecting in early June that 266 positions were filled for a term start year of 2017. However, this is not exhaustive as some federal judges do not post on OSCAR. With the Class of 2018 gaining access to OSCAR on July 1, there may be additional judges posting positions, but it is hard to predict.

Our next quarterly call is scheduled for October 4, 2016, 2pm EDT, 1pm CDT, 11am PDT.