

To: Craig Compton, Board Liaison, NALP Board of Directors

cc: Fred Thrasher, NALP Deputy Director

From: Amy Nixon and Jen Pollard, Co-Chairs, Judicial Clerkship Section

Date: June 22, 2023

Re: Judicial Clerkship Section Quarterly Report

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

I. Leadership Team

Work Groups and Charges

Work Group and Vice Chair(s)	Charges
Annual Education Conference / Bulletin+ Article and Webinar Planning Handled by Section Co-Chairs: Amy Nixon (Chicago) Jen Pollard (Maryland)	Brainstorm with section members to develop ideas and identify speakers for the 2024 Annual Education Conference and topics for <i>Bulletin+</i> articles. Assist members through the completion of the RFP processes for both. Consider the production of educational webinars throughout the year, with potential small group topics on alumni clerkship databases, tracking “off-plan” judges, diversity clerkship initiatives and clerkship-oriented coursework.
OSCAR Vice Chair: Marilyn Drees (Texas)	Support and work in collaboration with the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) on the continued implementation and use of the OSCAR NextGen platform. Collect feedback on OSCAR from the membership and provide to the AOC.
State Courts Vice Chairs: Chris Gerlica (Roger Williams Law) Veronica Elizalde (St. Mary's)	Continue to prepare and update a guide for career counselors serving as a complementary resource to the Vermont Law School Guide to State Court Clerkships covering as many jurisdictions as possible. Continue to collaborate with the Public Service Section to explore using PSJD as a resource for state court clerkship postings.
Federal Law Clerk Hiring Plan Vice Chairs: Rochelle McCain (Yale) Greta Trakul (Michigan)	Monitor the extension of the pilot hiring plan and update the membership on any alterations. Collaborate with the other sections to assess the impact of the extended plan.
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Clerkship Hiring & DEI Liaison Vice Chairs: Melissa MacDougal (U of Florida) Taylor Kaster (Loyola) DEI Liaison: TBD (DEI Steering Committee will appoint)	Continue to collect and update existing research, reports and publications addressing federal and state court diversity, including statistics on judges, clerks and recruiting and hiring initiatives. Collaborate with the DEI Steering Committee to create a webinar or <i>Bulletin+</i> article about the findings.

Judicial Workplace Conduct Vice Chairs: Liz Peck (Yale) Lisa Bossetti Barash (UCLA)	Provide section members with resources and guidance designed to help them more effectively counsel and support interns and clerks on conduct issues that arise in the judicial workplace
Well-Being Champion Ann Chang (Pepperdine Caruso Law)	Identify specific well-being issues faced by the section and propose and institute well-being initiatives to address these issues. Participate as a member of the Well-Being Steering Committee.

II. Section Meetings

The Section held its first section meeting on April 27, 2023. After a moment of appreciation to the prior year’s leadership team by former vice chairs, Janet Siegel Brown and Todd Rogers, the new vice chairs Amy Nixon and Jen Pollard led a brainstorming session for RFP ideas for the 2024 Annual Education Conference and *Bulletin+* articles. Additionally, Amy and Jen issued a call for volunteers for the 2023-24 leadership team.

The Section held its second section meeting on Wednesday, June 21, 2023. The meeting started with a presentation on judicial clerk hiring by Nicole Papp Rao from the New Jersey Courts. Following that, the 2023-24 Work Group Vice Chairs were introduced and offered their reports. Finally, we opened the floor to discuss any current issues in the clerkship space, including any issues encountered with the start of the federal clerkship hiring periods, but no issues were raised.

The six 2024 AEC RFPs that were submitted on behalf of the Section are:

- Beyond Clerkships: Finding “Real Jobs” in the Judiciary (Rochelle McCain, Meredith Shih, Laura Simon, Susan Goldberg)
- Clerkship Advising for Small or Solo CSOs (Christopher Gerlica, Veronica Elizalde, Katy Stack)
- Focus on Inclusion: Initiatives in the Federal Judiciary for Law Clerks and More (Marilyn Drees, Bruce Hendricks, Tiffany Blakey, Laura Simon)
- Global Thinking and Clerkship Success (Julie McLaughlin, Clara Solomon, Anne Newton McFadden, Caroline Springer)
- Pathways to the Bench: Guiding Law Students & Alumni to Judicial Service (Andrea Saavedra, Linda Kelly Mejias-Glover)
- The Hidden Gem: Mining the Value of State Court Clerkships (Ann Chang, Sharon Buckingham, TBD)

Also, the Section submitted the following articles to be included in the *Bulletin+*:

- Guiding your law clerk through the post-clerkship job search—October/November 2023 (Janet Siegel Brown, Amy Killoran)
- Exploring the Rural Clerkship: Increasing Student Participation in Rural Clerkships—September 2023 (Melissa McDougall)
- Author Interview for Behind the Bench: The Guide to Judicial Clerkships, 3rd Edition—March 2024 (Amy Nixon, Carleigh Lewaniak)

III. Environmental Scanning

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

- Federal judges asking for personal statements as part of the clerkship application
- Participating in OCI when a clerkship has already been secured

IV. Upcoming Section calls, all at 1PM EST

October 12, 2023

January 25, 2024

March 21, 2024