

**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:** March 13, 2025

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**

<b>Work Group and Vice Chair(s)</b>	<b>Charges</b>
<b>Annual Education Conference / Bulletin+ Article and Webinar Planning</b> Handled by: Elizabeth Ireland (Wisconsin)	4 selected for AEC: (1) Clerkships 102: Best Practices in Clerkship Advising and Building a Clerkship Culture (2) Global Thinking and Clerkship Success (3) The B Side--Judicial Clerkships for Business Attorneys (4) The First 3 Years are the Hardest: Recruiting and Retaining Law Clerks
<b>OSCAR</b> Vice Chair: Marilyn Drees (Texas)	OSCAR is doing training webinars now. Registration is open until the meetings start. OSCAR reps will not be at the NALP AEC. What happens with OSCAR help desk in event of government shutdown? Tentative answer is that they have been moving funds around so that there should not be an immediate impact...good for 2 weeks and maybe longer. Meeting scheduled with work group and Laura and Mike to get updates on new features and tweaks. Meeting right before AEC.
<b>State Courts</b> Vice Chairs: Chris Gerlica (Roger Williams Law) Kristina Bilowus (Michigan State)	Insight & Inside information moved to google drive to try to make it more user friendly. Please give any thoughts on this move.
<b>Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Clerkship Hiring &amp; DEI Liaison</b> Vice Chair: Kristina Bilowus (Michigan State)  DEI Liaison: TBD (DEI Steering Committee will appoint)	Not here
<b>Judicial Workplace Conduct</b> Vice Chairs: Liz Peck (Yale) Lisa Bossetti Barash (UCLA)	2/27 US Courts OA Office did a program on workplace protections for law clerks Liz & Lisas presented to DWRs on counseling clerks having issues with judges
<b>Well-Being Champion</b>  Ann Chang (Pepperdine Caruso Law)	Well-being section meeting is after this meeting. Hosted a well-being circle on sleep. 4/3 Wellbeing in the law program
<b>Member Relations</b> Vice Chairs: Michele Hoff (Georgetown) Elizabeth Ireland (Wisconsin) AJ Finch (Iowa)	In light of the federal agency uncertainty the ALJ update is on hold.

II. Section Meeting

The Section held its first section meeting on April 18, 2024. Current Vice Chairs, Amy Nixon and Jen Pollard, shared that they will be staying on in their current leadership roles for next year. Led a brainstorming session for RFP ideas for the 2025 Annual Education Conference and Bulletin+ articles. Additionally, Amy and Jen issued a call for volunteers for the 2024-25 leadership team.

The Section held its second section meeting on Monday, June 17, 2024. The meeting started with a presentation on state judicial clerkship hiring in Maine by supervisory law clerk, Natalie Kreckle. Following that, the 2024-25 Work Group Vice Chairs were introduced and provided updates. Finally, we opened the floor to discuss any issues related to the federal court hiring cycle, including any problems encountered with OSCAR. Rochelle McCain (Yale) reported a transcript issue that caused certain uploads to turn yellow. OSCAR is working on resolving this issue going forward.

The Section held its third meeting on Thursday, October 10, 2024. President of the Sonia & Celina Sotomayor Judicial Internship Program, Colleen Faherty, kicked off the meeting by providing an overview of the program and answer questions from the group. Following that, the work group vice chairs provided updates. Notably, the State Court Work Group plans to work with CORA to consultant on their development plans and guide them on prioritization. This lead to a discussion about CORA's lack of progress and the type of support, financial and otherwise, that might help move CORA in the right direction. At the end of the meeting, we opened the floor for discussion.

This Section held its fourth meeting on Thursday, January 23, 2025. The meeting started with a presentation from, Yaniv Adar, from the Judicial Intern Academy of the Federal Bar Association. He is looking for partner law schools to connect with their local Federal Bar Association chapters to start programs across the country. Please contact Yaniv at yaniv@markmigdal.com for more information. Then, the section heard from Georgette Thinn, Jason Brener, and John Mikuta, from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit Staff Attorney's Office who shared information about their clerkship opportunities and hiring process.

The work groups gave updates. Updates to note: (1) If you have issues with the OSCAR updates (particularly the tagging), please report them so that a critical mass of feedback can be provided to prompt a response from OSCAR; (2) The State Court Work Group is working on putting together a program with state supreme court justices; (3) The Judicial Workplace Conduct Work Group will be putting on a career advising training for DWRs; and (4) We are awaiting word on what ALJ clerk hiring will be impacted by the recent hiring freeze. Finally, during the group discussion, there was a request for ideas on how to track down alumni (beyond the recent graduates) serving as judicial clerks.

The Section held its fifth meeting on Thursday, March 13, 2025. The meeting started with a presentation from Laura Simon from the AO. She discussed background checks and the federal Employment Suitability Program. Following that, the 2024-25 Work Group Vice Chairs provided updates. Then, we opened the floor to general discussion, which included environmental scanning, how are people handling seeing students/alumni interviews and not accepting offers or renege (Suzanne Endrizzi), and whether the "don't turn down a judge" rule apply to staff attorneys (Lupita Colon).

III. Upcoming Section Meeting

Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at 1-2:15 pm ET Rm 11 at the AEC