

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: February 3, 2022

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	<p>Andrea Saavedra, Columbia University School of Law acs2126@columbia.edu</p> <p>Amy Nixon, University of Chicago School of Law anixon@uchicago.edu</p>
Judicial Workplace Conduct Workgroup Vice-Chairs	<p>Eric Stern, University of California, Berkeley, School of Law estern@law.berkeley.edu</p> <p>Elizabeth Peck elizabethkpeck@gmail.com 607-339-7712</p>

II. Section Meetings

The Section held a Zoom meeting on Thursday, January 20, 2022. The following topics were discussed:

- Work Group Reports –
 - Knowledge Management –Vice Chair AJ Finch shared with Chair Laura Woodson that he is working to put together a report on the resources available on the NALP website for members regarding or relevant to judicial clerkships, with the idea that we could make this available to section members or NALP members generally so members are aware of the resources available. He is also, with the approval of members, working on reorganization of the clerkship resources online to make them more easily located and usable to members. He expects to have a full report and proposal for approval at the AEC.
 - Member Relations – Janet Brown announced that she and Todd Rogers were meeting to consider a webinar for the Section in spring and solicited ideas from members on the call for such a webinar. She reported later that they are considering a week in March for a Q&A on the upcoming hiring cycle that might focus on things newer members or advisors who do not focus full time on clerkships might benefit from hearing from more experienced members.
 - 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, 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 with Chair Laura Woodson that four of the five RFPs for the AEC were selected and that the speakers for those selected were hard at work preparing their presentations. They also continue to work on planned articles for the NALP Bulletin.

- Federal Law Clerk Hiring – Greta Trakul shared that we are still waiting for the federal judges to announce whether they will continue the Hiring Plan for the Class of 2024 and forward.
- OSCAR – Marilyn Drees reported that some OSCAR updates have been released but more are always in process based on feedback from users. The OSCAR Workgroup invites users to give feedback on their experiences with OSCAR and Marilyn volunteered to forward that feedback from any member who contacts her with any comments or criticisms.
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – Andrea Saavedra reported that they have no new report at this time. She notes that the AEC will have several good programs about DEI topics.
- Judicial Workplace Conduct – Liz Peck reported that she and Eric Stern are responsible for two of the five RFPs submitted for this year’s AEC from our Section on topics of Judicial Workplace Conduct issues. They continue to prepare for those presentations and 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.

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

- RFPs for Annual Conference – Members of the Section will present four (4) programs at the 2022 AEC, including (1) Judicial Workplace Misconduct & Underrepresentation in Chambers – Are Outside Groups the Answer?; (2) Meet the First Responders for Judicial Workplace Challenges; (3) Mind the Gap! Counseling Alumni Clerkship Applicants; and (4) The Politics of Clerkships: How Social Activism and Judicial Ethics can Coexist.
- 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. As noted above, the State Courts Work Group continues to solicit updates and information on missing states.
- ALJ Hiring – Michele Hoff and Todd Rogers are leading a committee to update the resource document on the NALP website on Administrative Law Judge hiring, which currently dates from 2016. She reports that they have met to divide up the task and expect to have it updated sometime this spring.
- 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:

- 2022 AEC Presentations
 - The presenters of the accepted presentations continue to prepare for their presentations and work with non-Member presenters on their parts.

- Webinar for Members – to be held around March 15, this webinar will address issues raised by members in our Environmental Scanning as well as other issues of interest to new or part-time judicial clerkship counselors. The Member Relations Work Group will also continue to reach out to new section members about what issues they are concerned about and what resources or programming the Section could provide to help them do their jobs.
- Upcoming Bulletin Articles – The Section will or has submitted several articles for the NALPBulletin:
 - November 2021 edition: 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 – Michele Hoff and Todd Rogers will continue to work on this committee and expect to present an updated resource document to replace the current (dated) version.
- Identification and Reorganization of Clerkship Resources on NALP Website – AJ Finch will continue to work on the identification or clerkship-related resources available to members on the NALP Website and will undertake reorganization and an index to make finding and accessing the resources easier to members.
- Outreach to New Members – Member Relations Work Group Vice Chairs Janet Brown and Todd Rogers will reach out to new Section members to determine their needs and interests and get them involved in the activities of the Section.

II. Environmental Scanning

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

- How to counsel 1Ls and 2Ls who seek advice and opportunities for post-grad clerkships well before the normal hiring season
- How to handle applications to judges not following the Hiring Plan when your school does not support Off-Plan hiring
- Advising students on the dangers of social media activity during the clerkship hiring process and during clerkships
- Concerns on physical safety within chambers
- The influence of federal clerkship hiring timelines on state appellate clerkship hiring
- Are clerkship interviews likely to return to in-person and, if so, what is the effect of the cost to students who must spend so much money flying to interviews around the country when less affluent students could be disadvantaged by this?

III. Upcoming Section Calls

The section plans to hold its next general meeting on Thursday, March 10, 2022 at 2:00p.m. Eastern. Additional small group meetings may also be scheduled to discuss focal topics in the coming months and to prepare for presentations at the AEC in New Orleans in April.