

TO: Fred Thrasher, NALP Deputy Director
Diane Downs, Board Liaison
NALP Board of Directors

FROM: Melissa Lennon, Chair, Judicial Clerkship Section

DATE: April 2, 2012

RE: **Judicial Clerkship Section Quarterly Report**

The Judicial Clerkship Section members are busily preparing for the next clerkship application cycle. We are meeting with our students and alumni and working with our faculty committees. Here is a brief report on our activities since the last report.

Work Group Status Reports

OSCAR (Chair, Marilyn Drees, Yale): The OSCAR Work Group (OWG) held two conference calls with the OSCAR staff to discuss the new features that will be implemented in OSCAR Version 7 and the spring OSCAR schedule. OSCAR 7 will launch in mid-May and will be available to applicants on May 17. Because the OSCAR website is undergoing a significant redesign for Version 7, it will be offline for a week instead of the usual weekend. The OWG will once again be testing the new features; however, the OSCAR staff has not yet finalized the testing schedule, and anticipates it will not be available before late April.

The OWG also reviewed with the staff a few improvements requested last fall that were not included in this year's specifications. The staff agreed to work with the OWG to see that they were added in the future, provided the cost analysis was reasonable.

As you may know, the federal judiciary, through their policy making body, The Judicial Conference, has an OSCAR Working Group as well. The Judicial Conference's OWG has traditionally included two non-voting members from the NALP OWG. Katie O'Leary of Tulane and Marilyn Drees of Yale concluded their terms in December 2011 and will be succeeded by Susan Staab of Chicago and Eric Stern of Berkeley.

State Courts (Chair, Lorri Olan, Washington & Lee): The Insider Guide on State Court Clerkships has been updated since our last quarterly update and now includes reports on CA, CO, CT, DC, GA, IL, IA, MD, MI, NE, NJ, NV, NY, OR, PA, RI, TX, and VA. The group awaits write-ups on Delaware, Florida, Massachusetts and Missouri. Requests for additional state reviews are made regularly. The resource is posted on the NALP website, under Professional Resources / Career Services / Resources for Judicial Clerkships.

Bibliography/Track Programming: Lorri Olan and her staff have completed an update to the existing resource of the clerkship bibliography. This draft was reviewed by Michael Ende of Hofstra and staff at Temple Law. The finishing touches are now being put on the resource, and we should be able to meet our goal of having this on the NALP website by the time of the Annual Conference.

Section Communication

Marilyn Drees sent out a helpful email highlighting some of the more important features of OSCAR 7. The site now contains a breakdown by state of the number of online applications and number of positions available.

On our listserv, we also engaged in discussions about our various deadlines for judge selection and application drop off, citizenship requirements for federal clerks and judicial fellowship programs.

Leadership Changes

Incoming NALP President Charlotte Wager has asked me to stay on to chair the Judicial Clerkship Section for another year, and I have happily accepted.

Lorri Olan has been elected as a new Regional Representative, and we congratulate her in her new role. Lorri's persistence with the state court resource has finally started to pay off and it is in great shape. She is a tireless worker, will certainly stay on as an active member of the section. Michael Ende of Hofstra has agreed to become the new leader of the State Court Work Group.

Susan Staab of The University of Chicago has graciously agreed to take on leadership of the OSCAR Work Group, filling the enormously large shoes of Marilyn Drees, our new NALP Vice President. It is hard to imagine our clerkship world without Marilyn at the helm of OSCAR. She has been a thoughtful, sensitive, patient and intelligent leader, bridging the worlds of the OSCAR tech staff, Article III Judges and regular old CSO worker bees. She has brought us all to a level of excellence, and we are very grateful.

Finally, we will be soliciting volunteers for the Social Media work group leadership at the conference, and in a follow up conference call.