

NALP JUDICIAL CLERKSHIP SECTION

Quarterly Report to the Board of Directors
February 7, 2011
Submitted by: Sheila Driscoll, George Washington, Chair

Conference Programs and Bulletin Articles

Four of the sections' conference proposals were accepted:

- **Beyond the Basics – Tips and Tricks for Using OSCAR Efficiently** submitted by: Katie Wilkinson (Tulane), Kirsten Solberg (Harvard), (FYI Matt Zimmerman from Georgetown who was also scheduled to present this program has gotten a new position and is no longer a member of NALP)
- **The Rise of Alumni Clerks: Challenges and Opportunities for Career Counselors and Legal Recruiting Professionals** submitted by: Michele Hoff (Connecticut), Eric Stern (Berkeley), Laurie Logan-Priscot (Carmody & Torrance, LLP), Marilyn Drees (Yale)
- **The Three Year Plan for a Successful Clerkship Program at Your Law School** submitted by Eric Stern (Berkeley) and Melissa Lennon (Temple)
- **Improving Racial and Ethnic Diversity in Federal Clerkships** submitted by Hanna Stotland (Northwestern), Christian Garza, Irma Gonzalez, and Frank Wu (co-sponsored by Diversity Section)

The following Bulletin articles have been published or scheduled for publication:

February 2011: Judicial Clerkships: An Oft Overlooked Option for Students Interested in Public Sector Careers By Lorri Olan (Washington & Lee)

April 2011: Sheila Driscoll and Marilyn Drees will write an article highlighting statistics from OSCAR from the previous hiring season.

June 2011: An article focusing on ALJ's in state court systems. Author (TBD)

Work Groups

OSCAR Work Group. Chair Marilyn Drees (Yale) reports the following:

Katie Wilkinson O'Leary (Tulane) and Marilyn Drees (Yale) represented the group at the annual meeting of the judges' OSCAR Work Group in Washington, DC, on November 4, 2010. The OSCAR staff reported on the 2010 hiring season statistics, subsequently highlighted in an article in the judiciary's newsletter, The Third Branch.

(http://www.uscourts.gov/News/TheThirdBranch/10-12-01/OSCAR_Comes_of_Age.aspx).

They also reported that the debut of the hiring module for circuit staff attorneys was highly successful. Looking ahead, the emphasis for OSCAR in 2011 would be increased training and improvement in instructional and informational resources for law school administrators and judges. Although some small tweaks would be made, no major changes in the interface were planned for the coming year.

The NALP working group continued discussions with the OSCAR staff in January on improvements suggested by NALP members. The staff indicated that most, if not all, would be included in the Statement of Work for spring 2011. The next group conference call with OSCAR staff is scheduled for February 9, 2011, at which time the OSCAR staff will share the final list of enhancements for the next version of OSCAR. In addition, the group will begin discussions of the tasks associated with the launch of the next version of OSCAR and the timeline for review, testing and launch.

State Court Work Group. Co-chairs Melissa Lennon (Temple) and Lori Olan (Washington & Lee) report the following:

The state court work group continues to invite volunteers to submit tips and tricks to add to our growing guide, "Insight and Information for Select State Court Clerkships." So far, we have 15 jurisdictions, which include: Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Maryland, New Jersey, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, Virginia, and Washington D.C. We have a commitment from two members to add Florida, and we hope to solicit additional volunteers. Also, if NALP members review the guide and find they would like to make suggestions to the content already provided, we would welcome that, too.

A link to this resource was added to the NALP web site and distributed to members:

http://www.nalp.org/uploads/NALPStateCourtRESOURCE_Oct10.pdf

Administrative Law Judge Hiring. Chair Chris Fritton (Pennsylvania)

Chris Fritton with the help of approximately 9 members has produced a document with information on ALJ hiring for most federal agencies, with the exception of the Department of Homeland Security. Chris would like to especially thank Danielle Sorkin (Brooklyn) who shared information that she had already gathered on ALJ hiring which made the work group's task much easier.

That resource has been included on the NALP web site, and a link was distributed to members:

<http://www.nalp.org/aljclerkshipinfo>

Experienced Attorney Hiring Work Group

At the last Board meeting, the Board decided to convert this work group into a joint work group with the Recruiting Section. Erin Springer, the chair of that section, and I sent out an email soliciting volunteers, and we got several responses, including two co-chairs: Naomi Sanchez (Washington) and Elaine Kent (Gardere law firm).

Naomi, Elaine and I had a conference call on February 1st to discuss next steps. We decided to create a list of questions regarding how law firms have handled associates leaving for judicial clerkships. We are then going to schedule a conference call with all of the work group members (approximately 12 members total) for mid to late February to discuss the questions we created and request that each work group member contact 5 to 10 of their NALP colleagues in their

region to solicit feedback via phone discussions on the questions we created (and the responses can be anonymous). The Chairs will then compile all of the notes from these conversations and summarize any trends for either a Bulletin article or to be shared with all members of the Clerkship section and Recruiting sections either via email or through a conference call. We are hoping that members will conduct the phone outreach in March and that the Chairs will have information back to compile by mid - April.

Environmental Scanning

An article in the Third Branch highlighted OSCAR and the clerkship hiring season:

http://www.uscourts.gov/News/TheThirdBranch/10-12-01/OSCAR_Comes_of_Age.aspx).

Miscellaneous

The Federal Law Clerk Hiring Plan Dates for 2011 were released and are similar to the dates from years past. See:

<http://www.cadc.uscourts.gov/internet/lawclerk.nsf/Content/SUMMARY?OpenDocument>