

NALP Judicial Clerkship Section Meeting
Friday, April 27, 2007, Keystone, Colorado

SUMMARY

[Kirsten Solberg could not attend the NALP conference this year so asked Allison Heverin to lead the section meeting based on this outline. Allison's debriefing comments back to Kirsten by telephone are noted below in italics.]

Section as Whole

Outgoing Chair: Allison Heverin, Northwestern
New Chair: Kirsten Solberg, Harvard, ksolberg@law.harvard.edu
Board Liaison: Terry Galligan, Boalt Hall
Introductions around the room

- Email discussion list – sign up through NALP website
- Conference calls quarterly or more often as needed – will be announced through email discussion list

Overview of Opportunities for Involvement – attendance sheet or email Kirsten directly

- OSCAR working group – revisions underway now so work would be for review of fall season and revisions next spring
- State court working group – indeterminate
- Programming for next year's conference – proposals due May 28
- Articles for bulletin – proposals due June 22; articles due on 5th of month prior to month of publication (e.g., due by August 5 for inclusion in September bulletin)

OSCAR Work Group

Leader: Marilyn Drees, Yale

- Update from Marilyn

State Court Work Group

Leader: to be named (any volunteers?)

- Review of last year's effort on central database
- Discussion of sharing information through reciprocity arrangements
- Any other ideas for working group to take on?

Ramona Sein from William and Mary gave a summary of the group's efforts over the last year, culminating in the Board of Directors rejecting the group's proposal for a centralized database organized through NALP. The main concern seemed to be budget. Even if schools eventually would fund a centralized database through subscriptions, the Board did not want to have NALP pay for start up costs. Last year's members were opposed to using reciprocity arrangements as the structure through which to share information, so there was a call for alternative ideas. Marilyn Drees highlighted that any efforts by the group should not negatively impact Vermont Law School's national sale of its State Court Clerkship Guide. Many law schools have benefited from using the Vermont Guide, and Vermont funds its public interest programs through the sale of its Guide. Beth Hanson from BYU (within a region of the country where schools have a structure for sharing information) suggested that the group could develop a starter kit for how other regions of the country could get similarly organized. Someone pointed out that there was a NALP Bulletin article on that precise topic three or four years ago. Elaine Bourne from Washington U. suggested working through the existing NALP city groups. In general, people seemed very positive and enthusiastic in continuing work on state courts, but they wanted more direction about what the Board would support.

[Kirsten has a call into Terry to follow-up on support by the Board. Ramona may be interested in leading the group but would like to learn more about the possibility of changing or expanding the charge of the group.]

Programming for Conference

Coordinator: any volunteers?

- Topic ideas
- Volunteers to lead a program
- Volunteers to help as a panelist

Articles for Bulletin

Coordinator: any volunteers?

- Topic ideas
- Volunteers to take the lead in writing
- Volunteers to help with editorial feedback

Ideas for programming and articles were in great supply:

Nuts and Bolts Counseling, similar to the one offered at the Newer Professionals Conference (proposed by Liz Stack of Miami). Someone asked whether duplicating the program at the Annual Education Conference was worthwhile. Marilyn Drees responded that because many schools have limited budgets, they send their newer professionals to one conference or the other, and the Annual Education Conference offers more bang for the buck. Elaine Bourne suggested that perhaps a program at the Annual Education Conference could be half nuts and bolts and half more nuanced points like marketing, working with faculty members, etc. That compromise was popular among the members. Allison Heverin said she would be happy to help with such a program.

Clerkships as Part of Various Career Plans: public interest, U.S. Attorney's Office, law school faculty, why some elect to work for a few years before pursuing a clerkship, etc.

Clerkships from the Law Firm Side. Two law firm representatives attended the meeting: Stephanie Bruno of Piper and Laurie Logan of Paul Hastings. Both of them and the law school representatives were enthusiastic about getting more law firm representatives involved through programming or articles.

Web Resources. Such as blogs. Perhaps better for an article than a program.

International Clerkship Opportunities.

Clerkships from Inside Perspectives, including that of judges, law clerks, staff attorneys, etc. Allison proposed this idea but thought it might be better to save for a future year when there would be local U.S. judiciary members to invite as panelists.

Externships.

OSCAR. Several people questioned whether we need another program on OSCAR now that it is fairly well established. Marilyn Drees responded that even if we did not propose the topic as a program, there would still be a demand for information. A program is a fairly efficient way of sharing information.

Expanding a Clerkship Program at other than a Top National Law School. There was a lot of interest in this topic.

Volunteers were recorded on the attendance sheet. Approximately 25 people attended the meeting.