

JUDICIAL CLERKSHIP SECTION
Quarterly Report to the Board of Directors
January 18, 2008

Submitted by: Kirsten Solberg, Chair

Articles and Programs

Articles and programs are proceeding as planned. Our second of three articles for the NALP *Bulletin* was published in December, and our third was submitted as scheduled for publication in February. Our program speakers for the Annual Education Conference are finalizing their presentations.

Articles

- Web Resources for Judicial Clerkship Applicants (September)
- Federal Judicial Clerks: Where They Go and Why (December)
- Creating a State Court Judicial Clerkship Database (February)

Programs

- Building a Judicial Clerkship Program
- OSCAR (Online System for Clerkship Applications): Season Review and Look Ahead
- Clerkships Are for Everyone!: Beyond the Article IIIs

State Court Work Group

Since our last Board report, the state court work group finished creating its toolkit for sharing state court clerkship information on a regional basis. Last year, the group diligently explored the possibility of creating a national database but ultimately concluded that the costs were prohibitively high compared to the weak incentives for participation. The regional approach has succeeded already in one area of the country, so the group hopes other regions can adopt the model with similar success. The full toolkit and a shorter *Bulletin* article summarizing the toolkit were submitted to NALP in December. Publication on the website and in the *Bulletin* is expected in February.

OSCAR/FLCIS Work Group

Since our last Board report, membership in the OSCAR/FLCIS work group for 2007-2008 was finalized, and everyone got to work immediately. Throughout the fall, the group reviewed and revised detailed specifications for OSCAR's technical developer. Then on December 18, the group met in person with representatives of the judiciary (judges, administrative staff, and information technology staff) for a day-long planning meeting. Topics included: the prior year in review, the federal hiring plan, OSCAR policy decisions, system enhancements, a new court administrator interface, the 2008 implementation plan, and communications and training for the next version of OSCAR. Immediately following the meeting was a recognition ceremony. A few NALP leaders – including President Gihan Fernando and Executive Director James Leipold – were present to witness the judiciary's public thanks for law school contributions to the project. In the last few weeks, the work group subdivided to allow more proactive attention to key parts of OSCAR development: FLCIS features, reports, faculty directories, and hold/release of applications. Weekly conference calls through the spring should help us report across subgroups and keep tabs on the developer's progress.

Federal Hiring Plan

Federal judges have an Ad Hoc Committee on Law Clerk Hiring now considering whether to continue, modify, or eliminate the hiring plan for next season. At this time in past years, the NALP Judicial Clerkship Section submitted for Board approval written endorsement and implementation guidelines pertaining to the hiring plan. If the judiciary announces a hiring plan for next season without major changes – which is our best guess based on informal information – the Section expects then to submit for Board consideration an updated endorsement/guidelines document.