

JUDICIAL CLERKSHIP SECTION
Quarterly Report to the Board of Directors
October 19, 2007

Submitted by: Kirsten Solberg, Chair

Overview

Work outlined in our last quarterly report is proceeding as planned. Some specific projects are described further below. Our first of three articles for the NALP *Bulletin* was published in September, and we have two other *Bulletin* articles and three programs for the 2008 Annual Education Conference in process:

Articles

- Web Resources about Judicial Clerkships (September)
- Where Are They Now? Non-Law Firm Alternatives After a Federal Clerkship (December)
- Tool Kit for State Court Clerkships (February)

Programs

- Building/Expanding a Judicial Clerkship Program
- OSCAR (Online System for Clerkship Applications): Season Review and Look Ahead
- Clerkships for Everyone [non-traditional clerkships]

Judges' Hiring Status

A constant challenge in the world of clerkships is having good information about judges' hiring status. Because not all judges use the Federal Law Clerk Information System (FLCIS) and the Online System for Clerkship Application and Review (OSCAR), our section has taken proactive efforts to remind judges about these resources. Our July report to the Board contained the text of a postcard we sent to federal judges in June (before the main hiring season), reminding them to update their online listings and abide by the national hiring plan dates. More recently and with Board support, we sent a second postcard to federal judges (after the initial round of hiring), reminding them to update their online listings as they filled their clerkship positions and to consult lists of unavailable applicants in a secure part of the FLCIS. In advance of the second postcard going out to judges, we also reminded ourselves through the NALP listserv to keep our unavailable applicant lists up to date in the FLCIS. A copy of the second postcard is attached here. We thank the Board, Fred Thrasher, and Janet Smith at NALP for support on the second postcard, and suggest that the Board fund similar outreach efforts next year.

State Court Work Group

Since our last Board report, the state court work group met via teleconference on August 9 to discuss its project of creating a "tool kit" for sharing state court clerkship information on a regional basis. We have an outline of the tool kit that already has been circulated among the members. We expect to have a second, fuller draft completed by October 29, and a final version completed in December or January. A *Bulletin* article publicizing the tool kit is scheduled to be published in February.

OSCAR Work Group

Funding and therefore development of OSCAR follows the flow of the clerkship hiring season, generally running from fall to fall. Version 3.0 of OSCAR ran relatively smoothly this season but still exhibited room for further improvement. Most immediately, there was some money left from the last round of funding, so the OSCAR work group from 2006-2007 contributed in September a list of items to benefit from quick fixes with this money.

Membership of the work group for 2007-2008 is being constituted now and should be finalized in the next few days. Because we are a subset of a larger group of federal judges and administrative personnel who oversee OSCAR development, we must keep our size limited in order to balance effectively with those other factions. In addition, the work demands extensive hours, quick turnaround time, and experience with the clerkship hiring process. All those who expressed interest in OSCAR work have been contacted.

Development of OSCAR Version 4.0 has begun already, ahead of previous year's schedules. One of the main goals for this next season is for OSCAR to take over the functions of the FLCIS. (The Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, who currently has responsibility for the FLCIS, is ceasing support for the FLCIS and ultimately will be taking over responsibility for OSCAR.) The OSCAR administrative staff has compiled a work list for OSCAR's technical developer based on the FLCIS functions, feedback from last year's OSCAR work group, and suggestions submitted by users. This year's work group will be reviewing the list in detail and providing additional suggestions within the next week. Pricing and funding for new features should be settled in November, with technical work by the developer starting then. Detailed review, testing, problem-solving, etc. will proceed through the spring.

JUDICIAL CLERKSHIP SECTION

Postcard Sent to Federal Judges

October 11-12, 2007



Two Reminders from NALP –

■ **Please keep your information about clerkship availability updated** in the Federal Law Clerk Information System (FLCIS) and/or the Online System for Clerkship Application and Review (OSCAR). By making clear when your positions are filled, you can avoid unnecessary inquiries from applicants and law schools.

■ **Applicants no longer available for clerkships are listed in the FLCIS.** As applicants leave the pool for any reason, law schools add their names, class years, and periods of unavailability to the FLCIS to help save you unnecessary time considering them.

For assistance with the FLCIS, please contact Joseph Phillips of the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts at 202.502.1860 or joseph_phillips@ao.uscourts.gov. **For assistance with OSCAR**, please contact the OSCAR Support Desk at 202.354.3005 or oscar-support@dcd.uscourts.gov.

NALP is committed to working with all parties to make the Fall 2007 hiring season successful. A complete copy of our "Guidelines for Clerkship Hiring Plan Implementation for Fall 2007" is available on our website, www.nalp.org. For additional information or assistance, please contact the Chair of our Judicial Clerkship Section, Kirsten Solberg, at ksolberg@law.harvard.edu.

NALP

1025 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 1110
Washington, DC 20036-5413

Phone: 202-835-1001 – info@nalp.org – www.nalp.org

**Is your clerkship information
up to date?**