

**NALP Judicial Clerkship Section
Conference Call Minutes
May 15, 2007**

Participants

Allison Heverin, Northwestern
Amy Liu, Iowa
Beth Hansen, Brigham Young
Colleen Truden, Pacific
Cybele Smith, Ohio State
Danielle Schweiloch, Fordham
Elaine Bourne, Washington University
Ellen Jones, Lewis & Clark
Erin Sweeney, Texas
Jamie Morikawa, UCLA
Jolynn Caroline, Illinois
Karmel Willis, Houston
Kirsten Solberg, Harvard
Laurie Logan, Paul Hastings
Liz Stack, Miami
Lori Reifschneider, UC-Davis
Malini Nangia, UCLA
Marilyn Drees, Yale
Melissa Lennon, Temple
Michelle Mitchell, Michigan State
Ramona Sein, William & Mary
Stephanie Richman, Rutgers
Steve Marchese, Minnesota
Suzanne Huntley Levy, USC
Tamara Stephen, Hofstra
Tara Miller, Washington & Lee
Terry Galligan, Berkeley

1. Programs for next year's NALP conference

Building/Expanding a Law School Clerkship Program

- Kirsten: Louie Thompson of Temple may be willing to lead such a program; is there interest in topic and in helping out?
- Lori: mentioned this idea in Keystone, with special emphasis on marketing students to judges and forming/working with a faculty clerkship committee; willing to work on
- Melissa: perhaps add internal marketing within the law school to drum up support
- Allison: perhaps could cover all of the above in a 90-minute program
- Liz: good idea; willing to work on, especially internal marketing part
- Marilyn: covered this topic in 2005 at NALP newer professionals conference; even as single presenter with PowerPoint, found hard to cover in 75 minutes; happy to share PowerPoint (prepared with help from Elaine)
- Cybele: thinks this topic would be very popular among attendees at NALP conference
- Follow-up with: Louie Thompson of Temple (lthomps@temple.edu); Lori Reifschneider of UC-Davis (lreifschneider@ucdavis.edu); Liz Stack of Miami (estack@law.miami.edu)

OSCAR

- Kirsten: idea brought up in Keystone; is there a need to do another OSCAR program?
- Cybele: always helpful to have, popular topic; conference planning committee may ask for it if we don't propose it
- Kirsten: how does program reviewing past year relate to training session by Laura Simon and Chris Warner – should they be combined or do we dilute audience for training session by offering our program first?
- Liz: not enough time to cover content of both in single session; perhaps training session is more important than program reviewing past year

- Lori: agree, but also important to get review of past season
- Liz and Marilyn: training by Laura and Chris is set up as a vendor event, long after programs are proposed and approved
- Allison: helpful to have program as way to advertise training session
- Ramona: if we proceed with program, make clear in proposal that it is separate and complimentary to possible vendor training session
- Follow-up with: Marilyn Drees of Yale (marilyn.dress@yale.edu); Colleen Truden of Pacific (ctruden@pacific.edu); Liz Stack of Miami (estack@law.miami.edu)

Law Firm Perspective on Judicial Clerkships

- Kirsten: idea brought up in Keystone; what do people think?
- Liz: topic is of interest to NALP membership and not covered by programs often enough
- Marilyn: there was such a program at the conference in Chicago a few years ago; it was good substantively and popular
- Laurie: there also was such a program in Keystone that was a little too basic and not well attended because it conflicted with another clerkship program; attendees were looking for information deeper than "here's what clerkships are," etc.
- Allison: might benefit from having a school representative on a panel too for insight from that side
- Cybele: Ameer McKim, now of Hunton & Williams, worked for many years at Ohio State and might be willing to put together this program
- Lori: previously worked at O'Melveny and willing to work on this program
- Follow-up with: Ameer McKim of Hunton & Williams (amckim@hunton.com); Lori Reifschneider of UC-Davis (lareifschneider@ucdavis.edu)

Clerkships as Part of Career Plans

- Allison: another idea brought up in Keystone; more detailed input?
- Elaine: would be good to address how clerkship can aid students who may not be aware of value and would be good to emphasize state clerkships which are often overshadowed by federal ones
- Allison: would single speaker with PowerPoint or panelist format be better for this topic?
- Elaine: maybe both – an overview by one person and panelists describing how their own clerkships impacted their careers (especially would be good to address corporate law)
- Marilyn: would be appealing to people who are beyond the basic nuts-and-bolts clerkship programs
- Follow-up with: Allison Heverin of Northwestern (a-heverin@law.northwestern.edu); Suzanne Levy of USC (slevy@law.usc.edu); Elaine Bourne of Washington University (embourne@wulaw.wustl.edu)

Other Topics for Programs

- Marilyn: international clerkship, but might be covered alternatively in a bulletin article
- Liz: there was some mention of international clerkships in a program in Keystone, but it wasn't very helpful
- Cybele: will check on whether anyone at NALP is doing further work on diversity issue in clerkships to follow-up on survey

2. Articles for NALP bulletin

Ideas included international clerkships, web resources such as blogs, externships, and state court clerkships.

3. Employer work group

Ameer McKim of Hunton & Williams proposed by email forming an employer work group to explore at least whether NALP could add some questions about clerkship bonuses and seniority credit to the annual

associate salary survey they conduct each spring. Such an effort could help firms overcome the challenge of getting reliable market data on this form of compensation and would likely benefit the schools as well. Laurie Logan of Paul Hastings expressed interest in helping. Those on the school side were enthusiastic about getting more employers involved in the section. As long as the work group is defined as “employer” rather than “firm,” it might even draw in representatives from the large government employers.

4. State court work group

Ramona Sein of William & Mary is the new leader of this work group. (She, Melissa Lennon from Temple, and Ellen Jones of Lewis & Clark were members of the group last year.) Last year’s group explored the possibility of creating a centralized database for state court clerkships through NALP, but the NALP Board ultimately rejected the idea based mainly on budget concerns. New ideas for exploration this year include: (1) creating a tool kit to help schools replicate the regional sharing of information like Beth Hansen at BYU and others have done in the mountain region, and (2) gathering information beyond that already contained in the Vermont Guide, especially focusing on vacancies at the trial court level. Anyone interested in joining the group should contact Ramona at rjsein@wm.edu.

5. OSCAR/FLCIS work group

Marilyn Drees of Yale continues as the leader of this work group. The current group will remain in place this spring and summer to finalize revisions to OSCAR 3.0. Any turnover will occur in the fall to start the next cycle of reviewing the season and planning Version 4.0. Judges and judiciary staff coordinate with the law school work group and thus somewhat dictate the size and makeup.

On the FLCIS side, we now should prepare a postcard to federal judges encouraging them to update the FLCIS and abide by the hiring plan dates. Two years ago, we sent two postcards – one in May and one in August. Last year, the group thought a postcard was not needed, but several judges contacted the NALP administrative offices asking where the postcard was, so one went out in August in response. (Kirsten will share the text of the past postcards in a separate email to the listserve.)

6. Potential survey of judges who don’t indicate openings through FLCIS or OSCAR

Tamara Stephen of Hofstra asked by email if we would consider surveying (or if any of the schools already survey) federal judges who have not updated their FLCIS or OSCAR listings recently. A number of schools already do some surveying on their own and will check into whether they can share their results with the larger group. Possibilities for follow-up include: Kirsten Solberg of Harvard (most circuit and district judges), Melissa Lennon of Temple (all judges within the Third Circuit), Allison Heverin of Northwestern (all judges within the Seventh Circuit), and Erin Sweeney of Texas (law review agreed to call all circuit judges). A question came up about whether schools would be willing to share their information with other schools who were not offering information in exchange. The sense was that perhaps those schools willing to share information freely could do so through the listserve, and we all could see where holes existed before taking on any more coordinated effort to fill the holes. With judges posting in OSCAR through May 31 and hopefully the postcard reminder to use the FLCIS going out soon too, we probably should hold off on calling judges until at least June 1.

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Additional comments, questions, and ideas are welcome. Just share them directly with Kirsten or through the listserve. Thanks to all who participated in this conference call!