

MEMORANDUM

TO: NALP Executive Board

FROM: Sunita Iyer and Frantz Price, Jr., NALP International & Advanced Degree Section Chairs

DATE: June 20, 2025

RE: NALP International & Advanced Degree Section Board Report

Please find below a report of the International & Advanced Degree Section's activities since the last Board Report in March 2025.

Section Call

The International & Advanced Degree Section held its quarterly meeting on Tuesday, June 3 at 1:00 p.m. ET. During the call:

Alejandro Vargas, founder of Vargas Partners, was the guest speaker. As a legal recruiter based in Singapore, Alejandro spoke to our section about the job market in Asia, the Middle East, and Europe. He also shared his perspective on pathways for international law students to find opportunities with firms outside the U.S. Below are some of the points Alejandro shared with the section during the meeting:

- The Middle East is very energy and infrastructure driven so there are many opportunities for those with ties to Saudi Arabia.
- M&A has become a little soft lately, but it is still one of the safer practices.
- Capital Markets has been up and down but doing well lately; firms are quite busy and increasing their hiring.
- Energy and Infrastructure, project finance, development, and digital infrastructure are also more stable.
- Arbitration has not seen enough hiring to say there's room in the practice to meet student interest and demand.
- Two things driving the need for LL.M. students abroad: (1) language skills and market demand, or (2) really strong sector-specific experience.
- US and UK firms are closing or reducing headcount in their foreign offices (including in China) because of a lack of profitability.
- LL.M. students have a tough path towards permanent employment, so they need to be at a top law school and at the top of the class because firms will prioritize J.D.s.
- The best option for an LL.M. might be to try to get an OPT opportunity in the U.S. and impress the firm so much that they want to place the LL.M. somewhere else.
- If international students are going to take a bar in the US, the New York Bar remains the most marketable and in-demand by international employers.
- Law schools should consider creating a path for interested LL.M. students to convert their degrees to a J.D. – that remains the clearest path to employment.
 - However, now that J.D. recruiting is taking place in the spring of 1L year, LL.M.s would be at a disadvantage given their lack of access to earlier networking and recruiting opportunities.

Clara Solomon, Vice Chair, Legislative Monitoring

- Many actions have been taken by the Trump administration that may impact international students, but there have not been any legislative updates. We are all monitoring the news.

The session meeting was opened to the group for discussion

- Harvard shared that they were expecting a normal-sized incoming class and incoming international students were currently getting visas, but the final outcomes remained uncertain considering the numerous actions being instituted against Harvard and the pause in visa interviews.
- No one is yet thinking of alternative programming if students cannot obtain visas in time.
- Tammy Dawson from Berkeley shared that they have a summer program and students were able to get visas and arrive on time.
- Clara Solomon from NYU shared that there has been concern over cracking down on students on OPT that have not yet reported employment information. They have reached out to J.D.s that were borderline with their start dates. NYU is talking about short-term pro-bono projects that can help these students start within 90 days of their official OPT start date
- Section chairs reminded everyone that Bulletin articles are due June 12 and AEC RFPs are due August 1.

Environmental Scanning

This section invites guest speakers to inform the section about market updates, recruiting trends, career resources, etc. A survey was sent to the section to determine topics of interest and concern. The following were of most interest to section members:

- Helpful tools and online resources for LL.M.'s looking to transition their careers to the US (such as Firm Prospects, etc.)
- Onboarding and career preparation of LL.M. students
- Job market updates
- Visa and immigration issues for international J.D. and LL.M. candidates
- Bar exam information
- Funding opportunities for international public interest jobs

Adam Oliver from Firm Prospects will join our next quarterly meeting to demonstrate the platform and answer questions.

Work Group Update

The Section did not suggest any new work groups. All Vice Chair positions have been filled, but for the AEC/Bulletin Article and Webinar Planning group. We will continue to recruit members to fill open positions during Section meetings and via NALP Connect.

Amanda Thyden	Vice Chair - Well-being Champion
Amy Kimmel	Vice Chair - Bar Exam Issues
Caroline Springer	Vice Chair -- Member Relations
Clara Solomon	Vice Chair - Legislative Monitoring
Sarah Gruzaz	Vice Chair - Knowledge Management
Open Vice Chair Position	Vice Chair - Annual Education Conference / Bulletin+ Article and Webinar Planning

Membership Update

Since our Section Meeting at NALP on 4/10/2025, we have three new members in our Section:

- Efua Feldman - New York University School of Law
- Natalie Frost - University of Tulsa College of Law
- Tammy King - Washburn University School of Law

We have 155 current members in the Section (past community membership was 196).

Each new member was sent an email to welcome them to the Section, which includes information about getting involved by submitting Bulletin articles and conference RFP's, or being part of work groups. Members also receive NALP's LL.M. advisor manual.

Next Steps

Our quarterly meetings for the remainder of 2025-2026 will be held on the following dates and we will share zoom links closer to each meeting:

- Tuesday, September 30, 1-2 pm ET
- Tuesday, January 13, 1-2 pm
- Tuesday, March 10, 1-2 pm