

## **International & Advanced Degree Advising & Recruiting Section NALP October Board Report**

To: Mike Ende, Board Liaison  
CC: Claire Nash, Member Services Coordinator  
From: Rebecca Moor, International & Advanced Degree Recruiting & Advising Section Chair  
Date: October 19, 2020

Please find below a summary of our Section's activities since our last Board Report.

### **Section Call**

The International & Advanced Degree Advising & Recruiting Section held its second Section call on October 8. Approximately 22 people attended via zoom.

### **New Membership**

Our Section continues to add new members. Vice Chair of Member Relations, Megan Avellana, reports that 18 people joined recently, and that each new member receives a welcome email along with information about how to get more involved with NALP.

### **Legislative and Visa Updates**

This has been a busy time on the legislative front for international students and workers. Government Relations Vice Chair Shujun Tian has been keeping abreast of proposed new visa rules, including a new proposal to limit the duration of status of international students. If this rule is enacted, students will be limited to four total years for their U.S. studies and there will be a new, more restrictive approval process for Optional Practical Training (OPT). The new rules are particularly concerning for those studying in longer degree programs, such as PhDs and SJDs. These proposals are still in the comment stage, and much depends on the result of November's election. In addition, international students who deferred their start date to the spring are being told that they must be hybrid (or in person) to qualify for OPT after graduation. Shujun reports that many countries are still having U.S. visa processing issues, especially in China.

### **Conference Update**

At least one RFP from our Section has been approved for next year's Annual Education Conference: *Best Practices for Hiring and Retaining International Students*. More successful RFPs may be announced soon. Section members were encouraged to submit Bulletin article suggestions, as well as to fill out NALP's AEC Survey.

### **Bar Update**

Bar Vice Chair Amy Kimmel reported that the postponed July bar exams generally went well for international students, and that the New York Board of Law Examiners (BOLE) is now open and processing foreign applicant eligibility determinations with only small delays. The move to distance legal education has led to a growing interest in the California bar (which does not have an in-person learning requirement). However, California does have a state-specific Professional Responsibility course requirement. The rules regarding this course are somewhat unclear, as California does not have a course approval process as other

states (like New York) do. International students can take the CA PR course online and outside of their LLM program (although most still have to complete their LLM program or the equivalent). UC Hastings is one law school offering the course online to non-degree students.

### **Engaging Students Remotely**

Section members have been working together to share best practices for student engagement, particularly with regard to international student engagement. Many Section members noted that it is hard to engage with students who are studying remotely, especially once classes are underway. Members offered tips on how to help international students who wish to meet together abroad, how to develop trivia night games that sidestep geopolitical minefields, and how to hold virtual interactive workshops that attract the most students. Members also shared advice on which networking and recruiting platforms work best.

### **Next Call**

Our next call is planned for early next year. If legislative, bar or other developments arise in the meantime, we may schedule another call or online meeting.