

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mike Ende, NALP Board Liaison

CC: Fred Thrasher, NALP Deputy Director

FROM: Shujun Tian, NALP International & Advanced Degree Section Chair

DATE: February 3, 2022

RE: NALP International & Advanced Degree Section Board Report

Please find below a report of the International & Advanced Degree Section's activities during the last quarter.

Summary

Members of the International & Advanced Degree Advising & Recruiting Section are working to better support the needs of all NALP members who work with international students, including ongoing issues with LL.M. student eligibility to sit for various state bars. We have also successfully held a joint program on advising international students with the JD Advising Section and our Section will explore liaising with different international populations of international student advisors to better understand the international higher education and legal market in which our work is rooted.

Work Group Vice Chair Update

Sarah Gruzas (USC) and Ana Maria Knapp (Hogan Lovells) have joined Jabrina Robinson as co-chairs of the Knowledge Management work group.

Current vice chairs:

- AEC/Bulletin Article and Webinar Planning: Shannon Kahn, UC Berkeley
- *Bar Exam Issues: Amy Kimmel, UC Hastings
- *Legislative Monitoring: Sunita Iyer, Georgetown Law
- LLM/Legal Masters Collaboration: Sara Marshall, William and Mary
- *Member Relations: Megan Avellana, Ohio State
- *Knowledge Management: Jabrina Robinson, Duke; Sarah Gruzas, USC; Ana Maria Knapp, Hogan Lovells

More detailed updates for the asterisked work groups are detailed below.

Bar Exam Issues

The work group is monitoring the issue of international students whose foreign education included an online component and how the New York BOLE handles waiver requests. Additionally we are looking at the D.C. Bar's changes in their interpretations of requirements for foreign-trained attorneys and their eligibility to sit for the D.C. Bar.

Legislative Monitoring Update

The work group continues to monitor federal legislative and regulatory guidance related to international students, some highlights of which have been outlined below.

- There have not been any recent changes to F-1 and J-1 policies
- The State Department has proposed to raise application fees for F, M, and J visas from \$160 to \$245, a 53 percent increase. In the comments phase. The last fee increase for these categories was in 2014.
- The Biden administration will expand the OPT program to allow more international students to stay in the United States longer to work after graduation by adding 22 new fields of study to the list of majors that qualify for STEM OPT, which permits students to work for three years post-graduation instead of just one. The change, which adds fields such as bioenergy, climate change, and data science, will take effect immediately.
- Starting January 22, 2022, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will require non-U.S. individuals seeking to enter the United States from Canada or Mexico by land or ferry for all purposes – including “essential” activities such as work, business or education – to provide proof of full vaccination against COVID-19.

Membership Update

The following new members have recently joined our Section:

November: Willow Parker King, Indiana University

December: Joy Wang, Minnesota; Kerry McLean, Columbia Law

January: Tami Diebel, Iowa; Jacqueline Russell, Chicago-Kent; Maura Kelly, Northeastern Law

Each new member is sent an e-mail to welcome them to the Section, which includes information about getting involved by submitting Bulletin articles, conferences RFPs or being part of work groups. Members also receive NALP's recently-updated LL.M. advisor manual.

Knowledge Management Update

Our working group is reviewing materials on NALP that are most relevant to the International Advising Section. We hope to centralize the many helpful resources already available on NALP in categories of most interest to our section members. We have distributed a [survey](#) to section

members and will also use this feedback to identify or create additional materials to add to our library.

Section Call

We will hold our Section Call on February 10. The call was delayed because we had been hoping to hold our meeting in conjunction with some professional development in the form of a Q&A session with some of our law advising counterparts in Europe who work with international student populations. We will spend some of our time on February 10 discussing this potential program, as well as additional Q&As with counterparts in Asia, to better serve and understand our international student populations.

Tentative Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Work Group Updates
3. Items to Discuss
 - a. RFP and Bulletin article submissions
 - b. Forms of petition to the NY Bar
 - c. Tentative spring programming ideas
 - d. Legal market update and conditions for international attorneys, including debriefing of the recently held on-campus interviewing programs for foreign-trained LL.M. students
4. Q&A for new members

International Student Advising Overview for Newer NALP Members

Over 70 NALP members attended our session with the JD Advising Section on Thursday, December 8 offering a discussion on international student advising best practices and resources for JD advisors and small CSO, as well as answering employment and immigration related questions related to recruiting students who require employer-sponsored U.S. work authorization. A [recording of this program has been added to our resources](#) on the NALP Connect website.

We will revisit with the JD Advising Section to see if a follow-up session is appropriate. Additionally, our Section is interested in offering up this informational panel and overview as part of any Newer Professionals Conference programming and would be happy to discuss with the NALP Board its feasibility.