



# **U.S. Immigration Law**

## **Presentation to International Students and Scholars**

**Rice University  
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# Topics

- Difference between Visa and Status
- F and J Visas
- Temporary Work Visa Options
- “Green Card” Options
- Strategic Considerations



# Context

- Immigration is a complex area of law
- 20+ temporary visa categories
- 5 separate permanent employment-based categories, each with multiple subcategories
- Interaction/Synergies among various U.S. laws



# F-1 Student Visa

- Process
- Travel
- Employment
- Change of Status



# J-1 Exchange Visitor Visa

- Process including Two Year Home Return Requirement
- Travel
- Employment
- Change of Status



# H-1B Specialty Occupation Visa

- Process – Sponsor, Degree and Timing
- Cap – Numbers, timing, advanced degree
- Professional Fees and Expenses



# O-1 Visa

- Process
- What is “Extraordinary” - *big fish in a small pond*”
- Timing
- Duration



# Other Visa Options including TN • H1B1 • E-3

- TN – citizen of Mexico or Canada, Job Offer, Duration, Categories – see <http://canada.usembassy.gov/visas/doing-business-in-america/professions-covered-by-nafta.html>
- H1B1 - citizen of Singapore or Chile with 7500 cap
- E-3 – citizen of Australia with 10,000 cap





# “Green Card” Options

- Family Based Immigration
- Employment Based Immigration
- Diversity Visa Lottery – timing & annually



# Practice Pointers

- Plan ahead
- Dynamic nature of U.S. immigration laws
- Consequences of U.S. immigration law violations can affect freedom



# Strategy

- Work Authorization
- Travel
- Valid Passport
- DV Lottery
- Resource at Rice - DSO Adria L. Baker, Ed.D., tel: (713)348-6095; [abaker@rice.edu](mailto:abaker@rice.edu)



# Questions?

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