U.S. Immigration Law

Presentation to International Students and Scholars

Rice University
October 3, 2012

James D. Prappas
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

- 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
James D. Prappas
Jackson Walker L.L.P.
1401 McKinney, Suite 1900
Houston, Texas 77010
Tel (713) 752 4298
Email jprappas@jw.com
www.jw.com