

Seeking Legal Consultation in the U.S.

Several areas of law that are beyond the scope of the Oglethorpe Global Education staff. In these cases, we can you general support and advice, but you may also need to seek the help of an attorney to properly handle your legal situation. Choosing a good attorney is an important decision and we have provided you with critical information to help you navigate your options.

Immigration law is complex and changes frequently. An immigration attorney should have a thorough understanding of laws and procedures that pertain to non-US citizens. A good attorney will present you with the legal options that are available to you and can correctly prepare and file immigration petitions.

Lastly, there are situations where an individual can successfully file a petition with the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) without the help of an immigration attorney. If you decide to file a petition on your own, you may want to pay for an initial consultation with a qualified attorney to get you started. It's important to be informed on your particular petition type and be prepared to begin early and allow ample time for each step of the process. Begin by visiting USCIS website (www.uscis.gov) to find forms and general information.

You can always reach out to us with questions at gloaled@oglethorpe.edu.

Sample of Email or Questions to ask via Phone Before You Hire an Immigration Attorney (modify for specific needs and priorities)

1) How long has the attorney been practicing immigration law?

Find an attorney who does all or most of his/her work in immigration law. Do not trust an attorney who guarantees a result.

2) How much experience does the attorney have in your particular type of immigration case?

You will want an attorney who has handled a similar type of immigration case. Sometimes an attorney or firm focuses their work on particular types of cases (for example family based, employment based) and other times they may be more of a generalist.

3) Is there a free (or low cost) initial consultation available before I hire the attorney to take my case?

If so, be sure to find out how much the consultation will cost and how long it will be.



OGLETHORPE
UNIVERSITY

A_LAB

Global Education
OGLETHORPE UNIVERSITY

4) How will I contact/interact with the attorney?

Is he/she accessible via cell phone, email, or office phone?

5) Who will be handling the details of your case?

Will you contact the attorney or a paralegal with questions?

6) How much are the attorney fees for your case?

Rates vary significantly based on geographic locations, specific situations, and other factors. Be sure to ask before the work begins what the costs will be.

7) Will you be charged a flat rate or an hourly rate?

Whenever possible consider an attorney who works on a flat rate basis. It's also important to determine if any follow-up processing is included in the flat rate.

8) Do you offer any payment plan for the attorney fees?

If you feel comfortable, share you are a student/new graduate I'm trying to save to pay upfront but also worried about waiting too long to file before my F-1 status ends.

9) What are some of the issues/challenges I should prepare for?

They attorney should be able to share specific cases, practices, or trends they are experiencing that you should be aware of and plan for.

We do not endorse or recommend any of the attorneys listed on this page. We are offering their information as a service to anyone seeking an immigration attorney or legal consultation.

General Resources

American Immigration Lawyer Association www.aila.org

American Bar Association www.abanet.org

Legal Aid Society www.las.org

Immigration Advocates Network

www.immigrationadvocates.org/nonprofit/legaldirectory/search?state=GA



OGLETHORPE
UNIVERSITY

A_LAB

Global Education
OGLETHORPE UNIVERSITY

Immigration Attorneys

NAFSA Marketplace: <http://nafsainternationaleducationmarketplace.com/>

Siskind Susser Bland: www.visalaw.com

(Atlanta & Southeast Region)

Kuck Immigration Partners: www.immigration.net

(Atlanta & Southeast Region)

Ware Immigration: www.david-ware.com

(Southeast/Pacific Northwest Region)

Kramer & Alfano, P.C.: www.kramerpc.com

(Atlanta & Southeast Region)

Klasko, Rulon, Stock & Seltzer, LLP: www.klaskolaw.com

(Northeast Region)