

SoPS Event Analysis – Nov 29th, Green Card Event with Law Offices of Warmuth, LLC.

Actionables for SoPS committee for communication based on event feedback:

1. There may be a good fraction of people interested in an event by OISS on the same matter, as a follow-up. AG will contact Sylvia to inquire. Possible focus on the facts and a secondary may be on how to apply for GC for those without the \$\$ for lawyers.
2. The suggestion of bringing alternative law firms is certainly possible and will be investigated. This should increase the frequency of immigration events for postdocs. Note: It seems essential to prepare the speakers to present the facts clearly before their sales pitch and to try and differentiate the two.

Logistics (Notes for future):

1. Room booked as soon as event date finalized. Over a month in advance is recommended.
2. Registration started 20 days in advance – Nov 8th. 34 people signed up by 10th, 43 after the reminder on 27th. Total registrants 96 and total attendees 77. (In future, advance notice is deemed important. At least a third of the registrants seem to be early planners.)
3. Three-day advance notice was not adequate for UCLA Catering (Contact at least 1-2 weeks in advance).
4. Cookies were ordered the night before at Diddy Reise and picked up the morning of... 9 dozens were ordered, <5 remained.
5. Coffee at CBTL needs to be ordered 3hrs in advance. They provided sugar, stirrers, cream and also the hot water for tea (free) with the order. Tea bags, paper cups, napkins were purchased at Ralphs.
6. All refreshment costs were reimbursed by Warmuth.

Feedback Statistics (received from 25 of 77 attendees):

1. **Was the event useful to you?**
No: 0
Yes: 25
2. **Were the topics of your interest sufficiently dealt with during the seminar?**
No: 1
Yes: 24
3. **Was the 1-on-1 evaluation productive?**
I didn't opt for it: 11
No: 1
Yes: 13
4. **Did today's event help you make a decision about your next immigration related step?**
Not at all: 0
No, but it helped: 6
Yes: 19
5. **Should SoPS continue to invite this firm in future?**
No: 2
Yes: 23
6. **Further thoughts or Comments?**
Left Blank: 9
User entered value: 13
Average submission length in words (ex blanks): 57.46

Comments Received (NEXT PAGE)

J1 vs. H1 issues and the merits and demerits of one over the other while applying for a green card should have been discussed more

as a suggestion, maybe you wanna consider bring another firm and then compare presentations, assistance, expertise. some of the questions were half answered, i believe. showing the firm statistics would be appreciated by the potential future clients. their credentials are in the numbers. even though i got answers i was not 100% convinced they were on top of everything. i have close friends, J-1 holders, that applied and got O-1 visas and the information they passed to me somehow does not match completely with what i heard tonight. all in all, i bet they will help you all the way. but it doesn't hurt to try another crew. thanks for putting this together. and for the good cookies!

As the turnout is really amazing, we should also plan to call other agencies if future, may be should have twice a year.

very useful

My primary problem with this seminar was that the lawyers seemed very ill prepared for the event. In fact, it seemed to me they were primarily fishing for clients... which is something that should have been reserved for the 1-on-1 consultation. It cheapened the tenor of the entire event. I mean really, they couldn't spend 30 minutes to reorganize their Powerpoint presentation?!?!?

It also didn't help that Mike (I may have his name incorrectly) was a HORRIBLE speaker and sounded extremely patronizing. While immigration laws are extremely complex, we're all POSTDOC's... we're not stupid, but we are there to learn something about the process. However, he spoke as if we should already know the basic mechanics of the process. This again speaks to the disorganized nature of their presentation, and my perception that they were more interested in fishing for clients than actually providing us with good information.

Granted, they are a business and of course that is an interest, but they could have shown a little more effort than they did.

Furthermore, something like this seminar probably should be coordinated with the OISS if possible. I do understand that they may be restricted since it sounds like UCLA will only sponsor a very specific group of employees.

In the future, please ask the firm to actually prepare for an information seminar or dispense with it and just do 1-on-1 sessions (which I recognized may run afoul of UCLA rules about endorsements).

Great initiative! Informative & helpful presentations (kudos to organizers & speakers!)

The firm never mentioned the financial costs of getting a green card during their presentation. But I couldn't stay till the very end, so maybe I missed that point during the discussion.

for the next time - it would be great if you could get someone from a law firm who is more experienced with ucla cases. for eg.. getting ucla sponsorship. also the time frames detailed by the speaker seemed a too optimistic. we need to get a better idea of how long this takes in reality .

-might be useful to have at least one other firm come in to give a presentation for comparison of service/information/costs
-might be useful to hear about options for going thru the greencard process via UCLA - i.e. get someone from UCLA/OISS to talk about this.

Thank you for scheduling this event. My opinion is that we should decide the time how long is for one person for one by one asking to consultant. Someone could not ask their question because already time out. We should get fair opportunity.

Thanks Ajay for making him speed up so that we could get the entire presentation before all the Q's. I was one of those who had to leave after a certain time.

If we postdocs are to pay ourselves for our green card, and given that postdocs salaries are not high, and many of us help economically our families in our home countries... is it possible to reach an agreement with the law firm such that we can pay in several payments. Or even get more affordable prices? Maybe I'm dreaming, but I could not afford to pay for my greencard without seriously impacting my family's income (even though I have a VERY STRONG CASE according to the result of my evaluation by the law firm).

the 1 h seminar was too short to cover all the different aspects and options of immigration
the 1-on-1 evaluation should have been more structured