



# Vogel Law Firm Top Ten Tips for International Students

## 10. Keep Copies / Carry Evidence

- ✓ Keep copies of all your immigration documents.
  - You will need them in the future.
- ✓ Carry evidence of status
  - Copy of I-20
  - Passport
  - Employment Authorization Document

## 9. Dealing with Government

- ✓ When dealing with immigration officials be:
  - Well prepared (know what you are doing)
  - Truthful (lying is felony)
  - Pleasant (they have unlimited discretion)
  - Business-like (they are not your friend)
- ✓ Treat police the same way

## 8. Understand about Intent

- ✓ Understand the importance of immigrant vs. non-immigrant intent.
  - Those who seek to stay in the US permanently have immigrant intent.
  - Those who seek to visit have non-immigrant intent.
- ✓ One needs the right visa for their intent.
- ✓ Misrepresenting intent is a crime.
- ✓ Remember students are on a temporary visa and must have intent to depart the United States.

## 7. Update Address Changes

- ✓ Remember to keep USCIS apprised of your current address with Form AR-11.
- ✓ International Office will assist in doing this.

## 6. Recognize Limits Government Advice

- ✓ Be cautious of asking immigration officials for advice.
  - The answer may be incorrect if they do not know all the facts (or even if they do).
  - The answer generally cannot be relied upon.
  - The question could bring a problem to attention of authorities.

## **5. Understand about Travel**

- ✓ Know the potential consequences of travel outside of the US.
  - If your F-1 visa has expired or is close to expiring, you may need to renew it in your home country before re-entering the US.
  - Travel can lead to a bar on re-entry if there has been unlawful presence.
- ✓ Other consequences at other stages of immigration process.

## **4. Understand About Arrests**

- ✓ Know the potential consequences of an arrest or conviction.
  - It can lead to deportation.
  - It can prevent re-entry after travel outside US.
  - It must be explained at every step of immigration process.
  - It can prevent adjustment of status.
  - It can prevent naturalization.

## **3. Understand about Employment**

- ✓ Know the consequences of unauthorized employment:
  - Will put you out of status.
  - Will result in denial of employment-based visas.
  - It might be forgiven in immediate relative petition absent travel.
  - It could result in 3 or 10 year bar on immigration after travel outside US.
  - A false statement on an I-9 form is a serious crime.
  - False claim of US Citizenship is lifetime bar on benefits

## **2. Know When to Seek Advice**

- ✓ Get an immigration attorney if arrested:
  - Criminal defense counsel generally do not understand the immigration issues.
- ✓ Consult immigration attorney before traveling if you get engaged to U.S. Citizen.
- ✓ Recognize that immigration law is complex and tied to your exact situation.

## **1. Have Fun, Wisely!**

- ✓ International study is a rare opportunity.
- ✓ Have fun, but not as much fun as your American friends.
  - They can afford to occasionally use bad judgment without serious consequences.
  - You cannot, without risking this and future travel opportunities.