

Carnegie Mellon University

Office of International Education

Legal Resources for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) Students

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) was established in 2012 by the Obama Administration to allow qualified individuals to request consideration for their removal action to be deferred for two years and to apply for employment authorization, both of which may be renewed. Deferred action does not provide a lawful immigration status. On September 5, 2017, the Trump Administration announced that it would be rescinding the DACA program. No new applications will be accepted; however, current participants whose benefits will expire between September 5, 2017 and March 5, 2018, may request an extension of their employment authorization if the application is filed/accepted by USCIS as of October 5, 2017.

Immigration law is complex and changes frequently and, typically, students with DACA have particularly complex situations. At times, it may be helpful to seek good legal counsel in order to best understand options that might be available. The Office of International Education (OIE) does not have expertise in this particular area of immigration law, and DACA students may need to access legal resources outside the university for specific guidance. OIE is, however, available to answer general immigration questions. As with other immigration issues, we advise gathering information from reliable sources in order to inform good decision-making.

DACA Resources:

- Educators 4 Fair Consideration (<http://e4fc.org>)
- Immigrant Legal Resource Center (<https://www.ilrc.org>; <https://www.ilrc.org/community-resources>)
- Immigration Advocates Network (<https://www.immigrationadvocates.org/nonprofit/legaldirectory>)
- Jewish Family & Children's Service of Pittsburgh (<http://www.jfscspgh.org>)
- Department of Homeland Security (<https://www.dhs.gov/news/2017/09/05/frequently-asked-questions-rescission-deferred-action-childhood-arrivals-daca> and <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2017/09/05/fact-sheet-rescission-deferred-action-childhood-arrivals-daca>)

Finding an Immigration Attorney:

- American Immigration Lawyer's Association (AILA) Immigration Lawyer Search Service (<http://www.ailalawyer.com>)
- Allegheny County Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service (www.acbalrs.org or 412-261-5555)
- American Bar Association (ABA) general information (www.abanet.org/public.html)

Questions to ask before hiring an immigration attorney:

How long has the attorney been practicing immigration law; how much work is immigration related?

Find an attorney who does all or most of his/her work in immigration law and has experience with DACA

Will the attorney offer a complementary consultation before you hire him/her to take your case?

Many attorneys will offer a short (15-30 minute) complementary meeting/consultation, but you should ask what the cost for a consultation will be, if any, before meeting with the attorney.

The following attorneys are pre-approved to handle employment-based applications on behalf of Carnegie Mellon and may be able to provide guidance for DACA students:

Attorney Name	Law Firm	Phone	Email	Website
John Brendel Larry Lebowitz	Cohen & Grigsby, P.C.	412-297-4987 412-297-4979	jbrendel@cohenlaw.com llebowitz@cohenlaw.com	www.cohenlaw.com
Robert S. Whitehill	Fox Rothschild, LLP	412-394-5595	rwhitehill@foxrothschild.com	www.foxrothschild.com
Ronald Klasko	Klasko, Rulon, Stock & Seltzer, LLP	215-825-8608	rklasko@klaskolaw.com	www.klaskolaw.com