Three-Part Telephone & E-mail Seminar:

Current Nurse Immigration Issues
(In Cooperation With CGFNS)

Speakers: Donna Richardson, Maryann Alexander, Virgina Alinsao, Sylvia Boecker, Patrick Curran, Amos Sydnor And Cindy Unkenholt

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Disclaimer: participation in this seminar does not create an attorney-client relationship with the speakers.

Seminar Outline

FIRST Phone Session on November 15: Hot Topics

- Ability to pay
- AC21 impact due to late receipting by USCIS on I-485 applications
- Prevailing wage when there are multiple locations
- Permanent nature of the job
- Thriving during retrogression
- NCLEX testing overseas
- Abandoned I-140 petitions when employer goes out of business

SECOND Phone Session on December 13: Nurse Retention, Recruitment, Culture

- How the shortage of healthcare professionals is affecting recruitment
- Working with contract/independent recruiters - Criteria used to choose an independent recruiter, Individual healthcare facility's involvement in the recruitment process
- How do healthcare professionals adapt to the new environment - Interactions with colleagues, patients, and the community, Common challenges seen: language, customs and working within a different healthcare system
- Has the pace of international recruiting increased, decreased or remained the same?

THIRD Phone Session on January 10: State Licensure

- Variations of state licensure of internationally-educated registered nurses
- Obtaining social security numbers
- Canadian nurse licensed by endorsement without NCLEX-RN
- License by endorsement state-to-state

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About the Speakers

Donna Richardson (Discussion Leader) was former CGFNS Director of Advocacy and Quality Assurance has assumed the position of Director of the new Governmental Affairs and Professional Standards Department, monitors and tracks legislative and regulatory actions at the state and federal level affecting internationally educated health professionals as well as professional standards of education. Ms. Richardson oversees, coordinates and interacts with the state boards of licensure for the nine professions for which CGFNS has been approved to certify for occupational visas. In addition, she is the liaison with the Departments of Homeland Security, Citizenship and Immigration Service; State; Labor; and Health and Human Services on matters related to the migration, recruitment and employment of health care professionals educated outside the US. She is also responsible for the coordination of professional standards development for the registered nurses and the allied health care professions for which CGFNS does credentials evaluation and verification.

Virginia C. Alinsao is the Director of International Nursing Recruitment for the Johns Hopkins Health System. In this role, she is responsible for screening, interviewing and selecting qualified candidates for Johns Hopkins member institutions. The Office of International Nursing recruitment processes all requirements necessary for nurses to obtain employment visa for JHHS and provide support and assistance in acculturation of nurses to the new work environment. Alinsao has a long history with Hopkins, having served in the past as the assistant administrator for Johns Hopkins International Patient Services, and as the director of nursing for Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center. Prior to joining Hopkins, she was a nursing house supervisor and senior nurse for Baltimore City Hospitals, and a senior nurse in the Burn Center of University of Virginia Medical Center. Alinsao completed her Diploma in Nursing from St. Paul School of Nursing in the Philippines and a Master of Science degree in nursing administration from the University of Maryland at Baltimore. She just completed her MBA in Medical Management at Johns Hopkins University Carey School of Business and is a board member of several organizations, including the newly formed Philippine Nurses' Association, Maryland Chapter.

Sylvia Boecker an attorney in private practice in Virginia, has served as Chair of AILA's Greater Chicago Chapter and as President of the Chicago Bar Association Committee on Immigration Law. She is the author of many articles on immigration issues for nurses. She has degrees in Latin American Studies from the University of Denver and in Spanish from Oberlin College, and a J.D. from DePaul University. Ms. Boecker served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Philippines.

Sherry L. Neal A Partner since 2004, has been an Immigration Attorney with Hammond Law Group since 1995. She handles all types of immigration cases, advising corporations and individuals on immigration law issues. She holds several leadership positions including Chair of the Ohio Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), member of the Board of Governors of AILA, and a member of the Healthcare Committee of AILA. She has written many articles on immigration law that have appeared in local, national and international books and magazines. She is a frequent speaker at conferences for legal bar associations, trade organizations and employment groups.

Patrick Curran is Chief Executive Officer for Kennedy Healthcare Recruiting, Inc., a company he co-founded after experiencing the nursing shortage first-hand, during a decade as a Psychiatric Crisis Clinician in southern New England emergency rooms. In his capacity as CEO, Mr. Curran oversees the screening, training, testing, licensing and transition of international nurses to their sponsors in the US. Kennedy Healthcare places RNs in over 50 healthcare facilities, primarily on the east coast.

Amos Sydnor is the Manager of Visa Screen at CGFNS International. He has been employed at CGFNS since 1988 and managing the Visa Screen Service since 2004. Mr. Sydnor holds a B.BA in Economics from Temple University (1988) and now resides in Philadelphia, PA.

Cindy J. Unkenholt is an Associate with Hammond Law Group. Cindy's practice is concentrated on business immigration matters, including healthcare and physician issues. Previously, she was an Associate with Stephen Jeffries & Associates in New York, New York where her work centered on advising international physicians. Additionally, she was an attorney with the Immigration Group of Faegre & Benson in Minneapolis, Minnesota and served as Immigration Counsel for Deloitte & Touche LLP. Cindy received her Bachelor's degree from the University of Cincinnati and her Juris Doctorate from the University of Connecticut College of Law. She is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association.