



**Beacon
Legal**



U.S. MARKET UPDATE

**TIMING YOUR
MOVE TO THE U.S.**

**EVERYTHING YOU
NEED TO KNOW**

AUG 2024



U.S. UPDATE
AUGUST 2024

TIMING YOUR MOVE TO THE U.S.

WHAT'S THE PROCESS?

Beacon Legal specialises in facilitating the relocation of Australian lawyers to the U.S., offering expert guidance to ensure a seamless transition into the professional landscape and lifestyle.

Making a move to the U.S requires careful planning and time consideration. We've included below an indication on time allocations and several factors you'll need to consider in your job search to help make your move a reality.





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HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO MOVE TO THE U.S.?

LEAD-IN TIME: 3-6 MONTHS

As with any major international move, relocating to the U.S. and securing a role needs to be planned in advance and can take more time than you expect. On average we'd recommend you allow yourself at least a 3-6 month lead-in time from when you start your search to when you have 'feet on the ground'.

APPLICATION STAGE: 4+ WEEKS

The duration of the application stage will largely depend on the market conditions for your PAE/Practice area and the interest in your skillset. We generally advise that you'll need to allow at least 4 weeks for your applications to be reviewed.

WHAT'S NEXT? →



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INTERVIEW PROCESSES: 4-6 WEEKS

The interview stage can take anywhere from 2-4 weeks. Typically firms will have at least two, possibly three interview stages where you'll meet partners, senior staff and associates in the team via VC. If you are in several processes, timescales may be extended so all firms can complete their interviews.

NOTICE PERIOD: UP TO 3 MONTHS

Once you accept a position with a U.S. firm, they generally expect you to start within a three-month time period. Since domestic lateral hires typically have a notice period of circa 2 weeks, extending lead-in times beyond three months can potentially be viewed less favourably.



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HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO OBTAIN AN E3 VISA?

As an Australian lawyer without a green card you will need to obtain an E3 Visa. The usual stages for getting this involve:



1. CONCLUDE INTERVIEWS AND ACCEPT A POSITION:

Timescales can vary owing to the reasons highlighted previously, however, we would anticipate you securing a position within 8 weeks of going to market.

2. COMPLETE CONFLICTS CHECKS:

This process typically takes between 4-6 weeks.

3. BACKGROUND CHECKS & CONSULATE APPOINTMENTS:

Background checks commence and run concomitantly with the visa application process. Arranging a consulate appointment is a required final stage of getting your E3 Visa and it is worth noting that in some cases you can expect up to a 50 day delay in securing an appointment.



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HOW DO I SIT THE BAR EXAM?

There are two official sittings of the bar exam each year - in **February** and **July**. Lawyers who wish to practice in the U.S. must pass this exam.

All firms will fund one sitting of the Bar exam and give you c. 4 weeks' paid study leave to prepare for this.

Depending on when you join the firm, there can be some flexibility on which sitting of the Bar you would take. However, firms typically expect foreign qualified lawyers they hire to sit for the next available sitting of the exam, following their commencement with the firm.



FEB



JUL





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WHEN IS THE BEST TIME OF YEAR TO MOVE TO THE U.S?

AUGUST - OCTOBER

With summer clerks finishing in July, the recruitment focus of U.S. firms returns to lateral hires, making August and September an opportune time for Australian lawyers to secure roles in the States!

Starting your job search now would see you landing in the U.S. anytime from mid November, and key advantages of this include:

- Receiving significant bonuses along with the other Associates in the group (paid to Associates in December/January)
- Having the opportunity to settle into the team before taking time off to sit the Bar exam, and
- Enjoying the beauty, sights and sounds of a New Year's Eve in the States!

AUG

SEPT

OCT

NOV



START
APPLICATION

ARRIVE
IN U.S.



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GET IN TOUCH

Beacon Legal are experts in assisting Australian lawyers relocate to the U.S. and can guide you through every step of this process.

If you have any questions, or are interested in hearing about roles in the U.S., please reach out to a member of our team via the contact details below.



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