

A Joint Event between NREI and ULI (October 19th, 2016)

Hosted at the Steven L. Newman Real Estate Institute, a dynamic discussion took place on October 19, 2016, featuring speaker Amy Ericson of Wright Johnson, a company specializing in the EB-5 Immigrant Investor and Bridge Financing Programs in real estate development. The meeting was a joint event between the Steven L. Newman Real Estate Institute and the Urban Land Institute (ULI) New York's Young Leaders Group.

Students had the opportunity to learn about the EB-5 program from an authentic expert. Through this program, investors are able to acquire permanent residence in the United States in exchange for investing into the American economy whilst guaranteeing the provision of 10 brand new full-time jobs as a result of their business venture. At Wright Johnson, Ms. Ericson aids potential investors with research, forms, and navigation of the ever-changing USCIS guidelines. With her extensive experience in this area, Ms. Ericson was able to answer any questions students had about the complicated EB-5 process.

Ms. Ericson also detailed the immigration issue arising from such business ventures- investors want to bring their nuclear family with them to the United States, the visas of whom take an even longer approval time. Nonetheless, smart business men and women unable to lucratively invest in their homelands seek EB-5 as an opportunity to grow not only their funds, but also brighten the future of their children, and as a result boost the American economy. I found this explanation enlightening as it showed a different perspective to the EB-5 process.

This conference was a wonderful experience for Baruch students; it wasn't just a lecture but an active Q&A-style session with an industry insider who was able to answer questions with

experience-based answers. I appreciated the opportunity to learn more about the issues and opportunities of the EB-5 from an expert in the field.

- Marina Bronivetskaya (Undergraduate Students, The William Newman Department of Real Estate)

