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Employment Contracts – Practical Considerations for the Young Ophthalmologist

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Financial Disclosures

- Arvind Saini, MD, MBA
 None
- Bruce Armon, Esquire
 - o Saul Ewing Arnstein & Lehr, LLP: Chair, Health Law Practice Group
- Julia Lee, JD
 - o Modernizing Medicine: Consultant/Advisor
 - o NorthStar Vision Partners, LLC: Consultant/Advisor





A Few Housekeeping Items...

- We will try to answer questions as we go but most will be answered after the presentation has concluded.
- Enter your questions into the <u>Q&A feature</u> and not the chat.
- Use the <u>upvote feature</u> (thumbs up) in the Q&A to promote a question you'd like to hear answered to the top of the queue.
- The webinar recording and slide deck will be available here within the next few days: <u>https://www.aao.org/practice-management/resources/videos</u>



Negotiating Physician Employment Agreements: Do's and Don'ts

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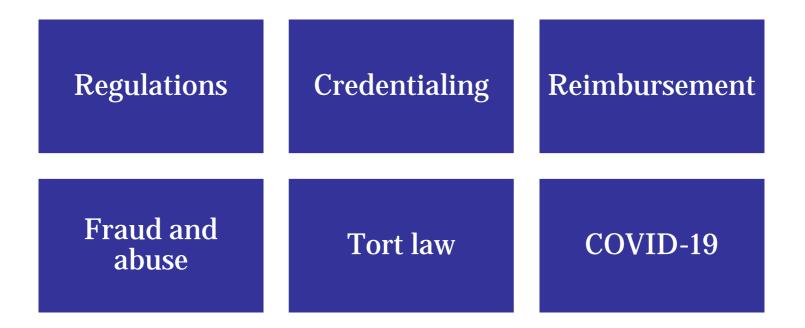
What in the World is Going On?



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Health Law Subjects



Each impacts your employment agreement

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Dating During COVID-19



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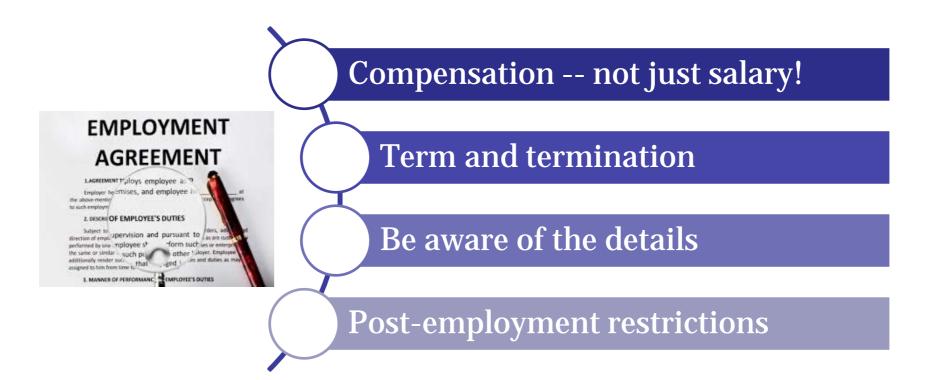
External Factors to Consider



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The Major Contract Issues



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Synopsis For Negotiating Employment Contracts

Don't rely on a handshake

Don't be afraid to ask for changes

Don't be afraid to ask for help – this is your career

Enjoy your first professional practice opportunity!

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Getting back to a new normal (soon, we hope)!



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Additional Health Care Legal Resources



https://www.saul.com/attorneys/bruce-d-armon

Look under Thought Leadership; Alerts & Newsletters

&

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Physician Employment Agreements: Tips from a Seasoned Administrator

Julia Lee, JD Lee Vision Associates, LLC NorthStar Vision Partners, LLC



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Recruiting/Job Search Timeline

- Succession planning vs. unexpected need
 - o Different recruiting channels depending on level of urgency
- Typical timeline follows residency and fellowship cycles
 - o Job post on AAO and similar forums in late summer
 - o Outreach to colleagues and department chairs
 - o Review of candidates and CVs
 - o Initial interviews at AAO Annual Meeting in late autumn
 - o Site visits and live interviews
 - o Offer
 - o Contract
 - o Begin credentialing and other on-boarding activities



Great Expectations

- Geographic area
 - o Family ties, lifestyle preferences, individual flexibility
- Type of practice
 - o Private equity backed, large group, academic, small group
 - o Partnership track
- Licensing and board certification contingencies
 - o Certain advantages to joining practice in same region where you trained
 - Credentialing with local payers
 - Familiarity with surgical facilities
 - Hospital privileges



Identify & Negotiate Your Priorities

- Value of an offer letter or term sheet
- Start date, anticipated board certification date, eligibility for partnership consideration
- Compensation package
 - o Base salary
 - o Bonus formula
 - Personal business expenses (cell phone, laptop, meetings, membership, subscriptions)
 - o Benefits (health insurance, disability insurance, paid time off, retirement plan)
 - A note about maternity leave and short-term disability insurance
- Work schedule and office locations





The Big Picture

- What negotiations can reveal about the future relationship
- Beyond compensation
 - o Culture and professional growth
 - o Autonomy and decision making
 - o Reputation and resources
- Termination provisions
 - o Notice period
 - o Restrictive covenant and/or liquidated damages
 - Tail coverage for medical malpractice insurance



Resiliency

- You've overcome a lot already
 The COVID generation of providers
- Work your network
 - o Who you know
- Use your skills
 - o What you know
- Hold on to your humor
 - o Wish bone, back bone, funny bone



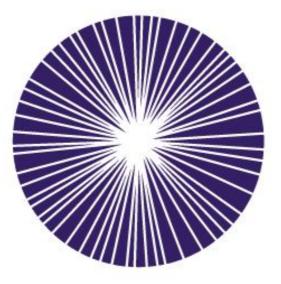




Question & Answer



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