



2023 AILA Annual Conference and Webcast

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 2023

Fundamentals

Sun A, Ballroom Level

8:00 am–9:00 am

New Attendee Orientation

Is this your first time attending an AILA Annual Conference? If so, then the New Attendee Orientation is for you! Join your colleagues at this session to learn all you need to know to make your Annual Conference experience a great one.

*Ian David Wagreich (DL), AILA Annual Conference Planning Committee Chair, Chicago, IL
Russell Abrutyn, AILA Membership Committee Chair, AILA Michigan Chapter Chair,
Berkeley, MI*

*Meghan Covino, AILA Board of Governors, AILA New Members Division Chair, Detroit, MI
Jeremy Robbins, Executive Director, American Immigration Council, Washington, D.C.*

9:00 am–9:30 am

Networking Break

9:30 am–10:30 am

Immediate Relatives and Preference Categories: Who Can Be Sponsored and How?

Panelists will review the various types of familial relationships that can be sponsored for permanent residence or other immigration-related benefits. They also will explain how these relationships are defined and what proof is required.

- How do you prove that the family relationship exists?
 - What do you do when traditional evidence is not available?

(DL) = Discussion Leader

** = invited, not confirmed*

Note: All sessions and events are subject to change without notice.

- What are the options for widows?
- What are the options for family members who have suffered abuse?

Maria F. Glinsmann (DL), Gaithersburg, MD

Ari J. Sauer, AILA Author, AILA's Immigration Law Practice and Procedure Manual: A "Cookbook" of Essential Practice Materials, 2nd ed., Memphis, TN

Jorge A. Gavilanes, Atlanta, GA

Whitney Lohr, Miami, FL

10:30 am–11:00 am

Networking Break

11:00 am–12:00 pm

Marriage-Based Adjustment of Status

Panelists will discuss the various methods for a U.S. citizen to sponsor their foreign national fiancé(e). They also will review important factors that should be discussed with a potential client that is deciding which option to pursue.

- What are the different steps for each possible process?
- How long does each step take? How do you determine this?
- What are important factors to consider when advising clients on the process best for them?

Matthew T. Galati (DL), Elkins Park, PA

Andres Lopez, AILA Board of Governors, Charlotte, NC

Elaine H. Witty, Memphis, TN

12:00 pm–12:30 pm

Networking Break

12:30 pm–1:30 pm

Basics of Preparing and Submitting the Affidavit of Support

Panelists will discuss the nuts and bolts of this essential, but often overlooked, piece of family-based adjustment of status applications. Basic concepts and calculations will be explained, your role as the attorney will be addressed, and warnings against common pitfalls that lead to unwanted rejection and RFEs will be provided.

- When is a sponsor needed? What form should you use?
- How do you determine whether the petitioner is eligible to be the sole sponsor?
- How are income and assets calculated? What constitutes income?
- When is a joint sponsor needed and who qualifies?
- What type of supporting documents are acceptable?
- What are the sponsor's obligations? What is your role in assisting a joint sponsor?

(DL) = Discussion Leader

** = invited, not confirmed*

Note: All sessions and events are subject to change without notice.

Jennifer L. West (DL), Richmond, VA
Emmanuel Gonzalez, Lynn, MA
Elizabeth M. Montano, Coral Gables, FL
Chelsea Hemgude Zuzindlak, Royal Oak, MI

1:30 pm–2:00 pm
Networking Break

2:00 pm–3:00 pm
Joint Representation and Conflicts of Interest: What to Do When Your Clients Break Up (ETHICS)

From honeymoon bliss to post-wedding wars, clients that may seem like the perfect couple unfortunately do not always remain that way. The smart practitioner therefore must have a plan in place in case their clients separate or divorce. Panelists will discuss considerations to be made at each step of the process when providing joint representation in family-based cases.

- Preparing for a possible conflict of interest
 - Clauses to include in the retainer agreement
 - Ensuring that clients are aware of these clauses and the potential for conflict
- How and when to ethically withdraw your representation when a conflict arises
- Your continuing obligations to clients
 - Maintaining your professional responsibilities

Andrea Blonder Shuford (DL), Alexandria, VA
Eric M. Dominguez, Los Angeles, CA
Melissa Chavin, London, UK
Christine Popp, Bloomington, IN

3:00 pm–3:30 pm
Networking Break

3:30 pm–4:30 pm
Preparing for the Adjustment of Status Interview or Hearing

It is important to see your family-based case through to the finish line. The key to this is making sure the interview or hearing goes as smoothly as possible. Panelists will discuss how to prepare your clients, yourself, and your file. They also will advise on how to comport yourself during the interview or hearing and what to do when issues arise.

- What is your role as the attorney?
- What and how should you advise clients in advance of the interview or hearing?
- Which documents will you need to bring?
- How do you prepare to address potentially sensitive issues: prior applications, criminal issues, possible misrepresentation, etc.?

(DL) = Discussion Leader
** = invited, not confirmed*

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- What should you do when problems arise? When and how do you ask for a supervisor?

Gayle Oshrin (DL), New York, NY

Tristan Gunn, Annual Conference Committee Removal/Litigation Track Chair, Chicago, IL

Sonia Parras Konrad, Des Moines, IA

Mark J. Shmueli, Takoma Park, MD

4:30 pm–5:00 pm

Networking Break

Lafayette, Ballroom Level

5:00 pm–6:00 pm

Lifecycle of a Family-Based Adjustment of Status Case: From Newlywed to Permanent Resident

Panelists will walk you through the entire process that a foreign national, newly married to a U.S. citizen spouse, follows to become first a conditional resident, and then a permanent resident.

- I-130 petition requirements
 - Demonstrating a good faith marriage
- Adjustment of status
 - Eligibility to adjust as an immediate relative
 - Identifying and addressing common issues: unauthorized employment, preconceived intent, nonimmigrant visa violations, etc.
- I-864 Affidavit of Support
 - Determining income and assets and proving they meet the requirements
- USCIS field office interview
 - Preparing your clients: documents to bring, common questions to expect
- I-751 petition
 - Explaining conditional residence to clients and managing expectations
 - Filing a joint petition
 - Avoiding a request for evidence (RFE) or interview
 - Handling situations when a waiver is needed and you may be conflicted out

Bradley Maze (DL), Southfield, MI

Andrew J. Desposito, Costa Mesa, CA

Irene Mugambi, Dallas, TX

Keith L. Southam, Chicago, IL

6:00 pm–6:30 pm

Networking Break

(DL) = Discussion Leader

** = invited, not confirmed*

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6:30 pm–7:30 pm

Naturalization and Derivative Citizenship

Panelists will discuss eligibility to naturalize and the conditions upon which foreign nationals acquire U.S. citizenship by operation of law. Topics include:

- Residency and physical presence requirements and exemptions
- Admission for permanent residence and post hoc readjudication of grants of lawful permanent resident (LPR) status
- Good moral character: When filing for naturalization can get your client into removal proceedings
- English and civics requirements and waiver criteria
- The Child Citizenship Act of 2000 and other laws granting citizenship
- Evidence of derived citizenship: U.S. passport vs. certificate of citizenship

*Richard M. Green (DL), Annual Conference Committee Fundamentals Track Chair, Irvine, CA
Yasmin Adelle Blackburn, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Vice Chair, Trumbull, CT
Erin J. Quinn, San Francisco, CA
Valeria Garcia, Albuquerque NM*

7:30 pm–8:00 pm

Networking Break

8:00 pm–9:00 pm

Common Waivers in Family-Based Cases

Panelists will provide information about how to screen family-based clients for possible inadmissibility. They also will explain which grounds can be waived, what the waiver requirements are, and how to build a strong waiver application.

- How to issue spot for possible grounds of inadmissibility that require waivers
- Misrepresentation and fraud: what they are, when and how to challenge these findings, how to address them in the waiver application
- Common criminal grounds of inadmissibility: when and how can these be waived?
- I-601 waivers vs. I-601A waivers: differences in standards of adjudication, when to use one or the other
- The basics of procedure and the required evidence for waivers

*Dagmar Butte (DL), Portland, OR
Elizabeth A. Kohler Maya, Arlington, VA
Camila Pachon Silva, Orlando, FL
Crucita Flecha, Columbus, OH*

Business

Sun A, Ballroom Level

(DL) = Discussion Leader

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5:00 pm–6:00 pm

What Happens When Your Case Gets Stuck: Options and Alternatives

While asking Emma and calling the 1-800 number rarely gets cases unstuck, these actions do sometimes encourage USCIS to process and adjudicate pending applications or petitions.

Panelists on this intermediate session will address current processing problems and how to resolve them most effectively.

- Scheduling interviews, appointments, and biometrics
- Getting your adjustment of status moving when priority dates become current
 - Submitting medical exams with pending I-485s
- The lockbox: case receipts and improper rejections
- The Contact Center, Emma, and e-inquiries: strategies, tips, best practices
- Utilizing congressional liaison, the CIS Ombudsman, AILA National, AILA local
- Other strategies: litigation and the writ of mandamus, going premium

Kyle A. Knapp (DL), Columbus, OH

Mark David Harley, Pittsburgh PA

Olga Rojas, Chicago, IL

6:00 pm–6:30 pm

Networking Break

6:30 pm–7:30 pm

Obtaining the Elusive NIV Consular Appointment and What to Do Once You Get It

Consular processing is more of a challenge than ever. The experts on this intermediate-level panel will discuss the latest trends and strategies for securing nonimmigrant business visas for your clients.

- Finding appointments: strategies and tips (including third-country nationals), drop-box and interview waivers, requests to expedite
- DS-160: pre- and post-submission issues, corrections and additions
- The interview: waivers, how to prepare clients
- What to expect when stuck in administrative processing
- Securing an INA §212(d)(3) waiver

Anastasia Tonello (DL), AILA Past President, New York, NY

Daniel J. Parisi, AILA Board of Governors, Brussels

Lynn Marie Lee, Clifton, VA

Liam Schwartz, Tel Aviv, Israel

7:30 pm–8:00 pm

Networking Break

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8:00 pm–9:00 pm

Remote and Hybrid Workforce Issues and Trends

Immigration policies were not designed for an era of remote work. Workers and employers who follow remote and hybrid work practices may unknowingly put themselves at risk of noncompliance with many aspects of the law, exposing them to possible fines or other penalties. Failure to address remote work in immigration policies can be a missed opportunity, and even lead to a compliance nightmare.

- Impact of movement of employee's work location on nonimmigrant visa (NIV) status (H/L/TN/E/O)
- Maintaining and posting compliance documents when there is no physical office
- Permanently remote employees: issues, policies, and procedures
- Properly documenting remote work scenarios in PERM submissions
- Impact on pending immigrant visa (IV) petitions when change in worksite location occurs

April A. Caminez Bentley (DL), AILA Central Florida Chapter Chair, Tallahassee, FL

David Grunblatt, New York, NY

Lisa Baker Jones, San Jose, CA

FAMILY

Coastal A, Ballroom Level

3:30 pm–4:30 pm

Immigrants List Civic Action: Combatting Anti-Immigration State Legislation – What You Can Do (No CLE)

As anti-immigration state legislatures continue to wage war on immigrant populations, activists are fighting to protect the rights of those seeking a better life for themselves in the United States. But how can we, as immigration lawyers, combat anti-immigration policy on the state level? Join Immigrants' List Civic Action for a discussion on how to become more involved in advocating for pro-immigration reform in your state's legislature.

Benjamin Johnson (DL), AILA Executive Director, Washington, D.C.

Ira J. Kurzban, AILA Past President/AILA Author, Kurzban's Immigration Law Sourcebook, 18th ed., Coral Gables, FL

Denyse Sabagh, AILA Past President, Washington, D.C.

John Miyasato, Washington, D.C.

Jeremy Robbins, Executive Director, American Immigration Council, Washington, D.C.

5:00 pm–6:00 pm

DACA and Deferred Action for Children: 2023 DACA Update

While the DACA program is constantly updating procedures and benefits, it continues to be the sole manner of relief for many younger people, forcing practitioners to remain up to date on the

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latest developments. Our panel of experts will identify recent changes to the program, analyze trends, and advise on the most advantageous strategies for representing DACA clients.

- Eligibility and meeting qualifications for DACA
- Recent litigation and agency updates, latest developments in approvals and denials
- Use of advance parole
- When is a renewal not a renewal?
- Trends and predictions: strategies and future prospects for DACA holders

Emily Robinson (DL), Los Angeles, CA

Susan Girardo Roy, Distance Learning Committee/EOIR Liaison Committee, Princeton Junction, NJ

6:00 pm–6:30 pm

Networking Break

6:30 pm–7:30 pm

Can I Adjust? TPS, Asylum Applications, Parolees, and Technical Violations

While USCIS places a high standard for allowing adjustment of status (AOS), clients often fail to maintain status for reasons outside their control. Panelists will address the risks and likelihood of success in seeking adjustment for those who are in an authorized period of stay but not traditionally eligible.

- Excusing a technical violation: Definition and scope for AOS purposes
- *Matter of Z-R-Z-C-* and recent developments in adjusting TPS holders
- *Matter of L-K, Patel v. Garland* and other relevant litigation
- Long-term prospects for DREAMers and DACA holders

Maria C. Chavez (DL), AILA San Diego Chapter Chair, San Diego, CA

Susan R. Fortino-Brown, Chicago, IL

Michael O'Rourke, Toronto, ON

7:30 pm–8:00 pm

Networking Break

8:00 pm–9:00 pm

Criminal Hot Spots in Family-Based Cases

When the beneficiary has an arrest or conviction for domestic violence, or they have used medical marijuana, what are the consequences, and what are their options? How is their ability to adjust status impacted? What if the beneficiary has a DUI, fraud, or shoplifting conviction? Panelists on this intermediate level session will answer these questions and much more.

- Domestic violence offenses: definitions and consequences

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- The expanding types of offenses considered as presumptive: crimes involving moral turpitude, DUIs
- Criminal bars and how to overcome them
- Determining when a finding of inadmissibility arises
- Overcoming potential bars or complications to adjustment

Rina Mahesh Gandhi (DL), Fairfax, VA

Carlos E. Estrada, Boston, MA

Maura Finn, Folkston, GA

LITIGATION & REMOVAL PROCEEDINGS

Osceola, Ballroom Level

5:00 pm–6:00 pm

Getting Out of Space Mountain: The Great Writ of Habeas Corpus

The U.S. Supreme Court has continued to chip away at the due process rights of noncitizens and the right to be free from immigration custody. This intermediate level panel will focus on the availability of the writ of habeas corpus and claims to be raised.

- Habeas petitions
- How to judge when your client's detention has become unreasonable
- Exhaustion of administrative remedies for claims prior to filing habeas petition in district court
- Negotiating with ICE for release pursuant to prosecutorial discretion while habeas petition is pending
- Updates on the *Rodriguez* constitutional arguments

*Amanda Waterhouse (DL), Federal Court Litigation Section Steering Committee Chair,
Houston, TX*

John Bruning, Minneapolis, MN

John Patrick Pratt, Coral Gables, FL

Glykeria Teji, Newark, NJ

Suchita Mathur, Senior Litigation Attorney, American Immigration Council, Washington, D.C.

6:00 pm–6:30 pm

Networking Break

6:30 pm–7:30 pm

I Wanna Be Free: Getting Your Client Bond

Representing someone in bond hearings can be incredibly significant, both as a legal advantage and for the well-being of your client. Being released from detention means your client can be in the company of friends and family and avoid harmful detention conditions. They also can better

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access counsel, which greatly improves their chances of winning their case. Panelists will cover both basic and advanced issues related to bond.

- Mandatory detention
- Abiding transfer
- The growing movement to shut down private detention facilities
- Addressing Interpol red notices
- Regional and local differences

*Laura P. Lunn (DL), Westminster, CO
Cynthia Mazariegos Fernandez, Chicago, IL
Gracie Willis, Decatur, GA*

7:30 pm–8:00 pm
Networking Break

8:00 pm–9:00 pm
Q&A with Former Immigration Judges and Board of Immigration Appeals Members (No CLE)

Ask former immigration judges and Board of Immigration Appeals members your pressing questions! Want advice on brief-writing, motions practice, corroborating your client's claim, making legal arguments, putting witnesses on the stand, or handling challenging trial attorneys? During this panel, you can learn how to best present your removal case from the experts. Panelists will answer live audience questions. Presented by the American Immigration Council's Immigration Justice Campaign.

*Ilana Greenstein (DL), Senior Managing Attorney, AIC/IJC, Boston, MA
Susan Girardo Roy, Distance Learning Committee/EOIR Liaison Committee, Princeton/Former Immigration Judge, Junction, NJ
Lory Rosenberg, Former BIA Member, Asheville, NC*

SPECIAL SESSIONS **Sun C, Ballroom Level**

8:00 am–9:00 am
Managing Burnout in a Post-COVID World

In this post-pandemic, and increasingly chaotic, legal landscape, practitioners find themselves frustrated, overwhelmed, and burned out. The experts on this panel, designed for all levels, will provide practical tips for regaining control and taking care of yourself while also taking care of your business.

- Navigating the chaotic legal landscape and irregular adjudications environment
- Prioritizing your well-being and accomplishing a good work-life balance

*(DL) = Discussion Leader
* = invited, not confirmed*

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- Getting control of the never-ending “to-do” list
- Setting, measuring, and managing goals with your mental health in mind
- Setting boundaries and mastering “clinical detachment”

Maurice H. Goldman (DL), Tucson, AZ

C. Lynn Calder, Lawyer Well-Being Committee Chair, Raleigh, NC

Laura Kelley, Doral, FL

9:00 am–9:30 am

Networking Break

9:30 am–10:30 am

The Art of Time Management

So much to do and so little time! Do you feel like you have 30 hours of tasks to complete in a 24-hour day? Panelists will discuss time management strategies that will help you achieve optimum operational efficiencies and reduce stress.

- Prioritizing and delegating tasks
 - Eliminating low priority tasks
- Communicating effectively while adhering to your standard of quality
- Achieving a balance between scheduling and flexibility, leaving time for professional and personal contingencies
- Block scheduling, organizing your calendar based on related tasks
 - Carving out blocks of time for consultations or drafting
- The value of regular administrative or case audits
- Creating time for business development

Zaira D. Solano (DL), Atlanta, GA

Jacob Lawrence Ratzan, Miami, FL

Kelly L. Ryan, Aurora, CO

Dyan Williams, Minneapolis, MN

10:30 am–11:00 am

Networking Break

11:00 am–12:00 pm

Ethically Advising Clients on the Availability of Public Benefits to Immigrants (ETHICS)

Noncitizens often arrive in the United States with little more than the clothes on their backs, causing some to consider applying for government benefits. Panelists will analyze the availability of public benefits for these noncitizens. They also will identify complications that can arise when noncitizens collect certain types of benefits.

- Who can collect public benefits? VAWA beneficiaries, asylees, parolees, UFUs, and others

(DL) = Discussion Leader

** = invited, not confirmed*

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- How does the receipt of public benefits interact with the I-864 and I-134?
- Ethically advising clients on applying for public benefits
 - When should a public benefits attorney get involved?
- Mitigating damage when client collects benefits through misrepresentation of finances

Shirley Tang (DL), New York, NY

Ritika Narayanan, Chicago, IL

Vanessa Gonzalez, Los Angeles, CA

12:00 pm–12:30 pm

Networking Break

12:30 pm–1:30 pm

Confronting Extraordinary Conditions: Iraq, Afghanistan, Ukraine, Venezuela

Troubling times have called for special, temporary forms of relief. Panelists will address the U.S. Government’s unique approach to protecting certain foreign nationals from embattled regions, and will cover the options available to individuals from these countries, including SIJ Status. Panelists will provide real-time updates on not only what citizens from these countries must do to maximize their immigration benefits but also what we can learn from these programs and should advocate for going forward.

- Special parole programs for Ukrainians and Venezuelans and how they are different from other types of parole
- Update on Special IVs for Iraqis and Afghans
- What you need to know about parole and employment authorization
- TPS, best practices, and family-based alternatives for long-term solutions

Raul Pinto (DL), Senior Staff Attorney, American Immigration Council, Washington, D.C.

Julia Bikbova, Northbrook, IL

Bashir Ghazialam, San Diego, CA

1:30 pm–2:00 pm

Networking Break

2:00 pm–3:00 pm

Learning to Deal with Denials and Fix Mistakes

Denials and mistakes are inevitable in the practice of immigration law. Panelists will discuss how to identify when it is necessary to fall on the sword and accept a mistake, and they will advise on best strategies for then moving forward. Panelists also will discuss communicating losses and errors to clients, as well as how to turn negatives into positives for ourselves.

- How to communicate bad news to your client
- Is a refund a good idea or even required?

(DL) = Discussion Leader

** = invited, not confirmed*

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- How to deal with the guilt of losing
- Dealing with angry clients and bad reviews
- How to turn losses into opportunities

Matthew Blaisdell (DL), Ethics Committee Vice Chair, Brooklyn, NY
Brittany Thomas Faith, AILA Board of Governors, Chattanooga, TN
Dalia Fuleihan, Chicago, IL
Sarah Rice Sanger, Toronto, ON

3:00 pm–3:30 pm
Networking Break

3:30 pm–4:30 pm

Refocusing Your Lens: How to Build an Anti-Racist Law Practice (BIAS)

Join the AILA Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee and special guests for this important session on how to take steps to build an anti-racist immigration practice.

- Lawyering with an Anti-Racist Lens
- Understanding and Recognizing Privilege and Implicit Bias
- How to Challenge Anti-Black Systemic Racism in U.S. Immigration Law

Ban Al-Wardi (DL), AILA Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Chair, Rolling Hills, CA
Olivia Serene Lee, AILA Board of Governors, San Francisco, CA
Sirine Shebaya, Washington, D.C.

4:30 pm–5:00 pm
Networking Break

5:00 pm–6:00 pm

Future Proofing Your Practice before It's Too Late

Don't get left in the dust; join this panel to learn more about the latest trends and the future of immigration law practice.

- Technology advances
- Evolving regulation of non-lawyers
- Impact of venture capital
- Responding to better serve evolving consumers
- Clues from AILA's Futures Report
- Data from the 2022 AILA Market Place Study: economic trends, especially labor cost vs. fees

William A. Stock (DL), AILA Past President, AILA Innovation & Technology Committee Chair, Philadelphia, PA
Emily Amara Gordon, AILA Innovation & Technology Committee, Brookline, MA

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** = invited, not confirmed*

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Hannah Little, AILA Innovation & Technology Committee, Charlotte, NC
Roman Zelichenko, Kew Gardens, NY

6:00 pm–6:30 pm
Networking Break

6:30 pm–7:30 pm

Today’s Practice Automation Tools

As business and individual clients seek better, faster, and more affordable legal services, and our profession seeks to expand justice to more people, many are turning to technology to meet these demands. Lawyers, tech entrepreneurs, and yes, the federal government, are all creating new tools that will help practitioners improve their workflows and reduce their costs of delivering services. Learn from our panel of experts what tools are available in the market today, and how lawyers at firms of all sizes can take advantage of them.

- Automation: What it is and how it benefits both firms and clients
- Available automation tools and where they may fit in your practice
- Intake bots, document assembly applications, practice management solutions
- Email efficiency using text expansion tools, task automation recipes (Zapier, etc.), appointments calendaring
- Artificial intelligence tools: dealing with the simulation of intelligent behavior in computers
 - Machine learning, natural language processing, and speech/image recognition

Nadine Heitz (DL), Lake Worth, FL

Brian J. Ramsey, AILA Nevada Chapter Chair, Las Vegas, NV

*Gregory Siskind, AILA Board of Governors, AILA Author, AILA’s Immigration Law Practice and Procedure Manual: A “Cookbook” of Essential Practice Materials, 2nd ed.,
Memphis, TN*

James Leo Betzold, Holland, MI

7:30 pm–8:00 pm
Networking Break

8:00 pm–9:00 pm

Overcoming Ethical Impediments to Innovation (ETHICS)

As lawyers encounter the forces of change brought on by technological innovations, many feel powerless to act because of ethical constraints. From fee sharing with online marketers to having judges respect limited scope representation agreements, lawyers want to be able to compete in the changing marketplace. Our ethics experts will help you find solutions to these and other issues as you seek to meet the changing demands of consumers and provide greater access to legal services.

- Limited scope representation

(DL) = Discussion Leader

** = invited, not confirmed*

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- Online legal services
- Fee sharing with others
- Publicly publishing your fees

Patrick M. Kolasinski (DL), Modesto, CA

James A. Bach, San Francisco, CA

Glenda M. Aldana Madrid, Seattle, WA

Reid F. Trautz, AILA Senior Director, Practice and Professionalism Center, Washington, D.C.

WEDNESDAY TRAININGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

7:00 am–9:00 pm

Registration

4:30 pm–8:00 pm

Exhibit Hall Opening

Canada Chapter

12:30 pm–2:00 pm

Suwannee 2, Mezzanine Level

National Immigration Project Reception

4:30 pm–5:30 pm

Suwannee 1, Mezzanine Level

New Members and Law Students Reception

5:00 pm–6:00 pm

Sarasota 3, Ballroom Level 2

Michigan Chapter

5:00 pm–6:00 pm

Sarasota 3, Ballroom Level 2

AILALink Training

5:00 pm–6:00 pm

Suwannee 3-4, Mezzanine Level

SoCal Chapter Reception

5:00 pm–6:00 pm

Tallahassee, Ballroom Level 2

Exhibit Hall Opening Happy Hour

6:00 pm–8:00 pm

(DL) = Discussion Leader

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THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 2023

FUNDAMENTALS

Sun A, Ballroom Level

7:00 am–8:00 am

Common Terms and Concepts

The practice of immigration law is filled with topic-specific jargon, including a multitude of three- and four-letter acronyms, a dictionary's worth of immigration-specific legalese, and more nuances in terminology than any new practitioner can possibly decipher alone. It's almost its own language, and as such, it requires expert guidance to help master it. Panelists on this fundamentals session will do just that, explaining the meanings of immigration-specific concepts and terms, and delving deeper into the unique language and rules essential to the practice of immigration law.

- Foreign national vs. citizen, nonimmigrant vs. immigrant
- Visa, visa waiver, visa exemption
- Visa expiration vs. petition expiration vs. period of admission
- Changing status, extending status, adjusting status
 - Consular processing vs. adjusting status
- Inadmissibility vs. removability
- Priority dates, filing dates, and final action dates: understanding the Visa Bulletin

David J. Wilks (DL), AILA Board of Governors, Rochester, NY

Meghan Covino, AILA Board of Governors, AILA New Members Division Chair, Detroit, MI

Eddie Corona, Santa Clara, CA

Mandy Feuerbacher, Los Gatos, CA

8:00 am–8:30 am

Networking Break

8:30 am–9:30 am

Four-Headed Hydra: The Agencies

Panelists on this fundamentals panel will cover the role and operations of the four cabinet level departments that administer the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) and their subagencies.

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- U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
 - U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS)
 - U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)
 - U.S. Customs & Border Protection (CBP)
- U.S. Department of State (DOS)
 - Consular posts abroad
 - National Visa Center (NVC)
- U.S. Department of Labor (DOL)
 - Office of Foreign Labor Certification (OFLC)
 - Board of Alien Labor Certification Appeals (BALCA)
- U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)
 - Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR)

Heather Drabek Prendergast (DL), AILA Board of Governors, Cleveland, OH
Allen E. Kaye, AILA Past President, New York, NY
E. Martin Uribe Francia, Sterling, VA
Ann Kelleher Miller, Dallas, TX

9:30 am–10:00 am
Networking Break

10:00 am–11:00 am
Getting by with a Little Help from My Friends

Panelists will address common challenges faced by new immigration lawyers and highlight some of the resources offered by AILA to help the novice practitioner.

- Defining the attorney-client relationship
- Managing the expectations of your clients
- Setting boundaries between work and life
- Effective client communications
- Finding a mentor, care and feeding of the mentor-protege relationship

Ganesh Kalyanaraman (DL), AILA Board of Governors, Sacramento, CA
John L. Pinnix, AILA Past President, Raleigh, NC
Sylvia Siew Jen Yong, Toronto, Canada

11:00 am–11:30 pm
Lunch Break

11:30 am–12:30 pm
Immigrant Visa Allocation and the Visa Bulletin

Attendees of this fundamentals panel will learn the criteria for the INA's preference categories, the three key pieces of information needed to read the Visa Bulletin, and more.

(DL) = Discussion Leader
** = invited, not confirmed*

Note: All sessions and events are subject to change without notice.

- Immediate relatives vs. preference categories
 - Movement between the preference categories
- The Child Status Protection Act
- Death of the petitioner in family-based cases and humanitarian reinstatement
- Priority date retention
- Transfers of underlying basis of eligibility in employment-based cases

David Strashnoy (DL), Beverly Hills, CA
Sandra Bruno, Ithaca, NY
Sanjee R. Weliwitigoda, Bethesda, MD

4:00 pm–5:30 pm

Procedural Immigration Law

How do you go about getting the immigration benefit your client wants? This fundamentals panel will address common procedural vehicles used to obtain immigration benefits from USCIS, DOL, and U.S. consulates abroad.

- Adjustment of status
- Change of status
- Extension of status
- Consular processing
- Interaction between nonimmigrant visa (NIV) and immigrant visa (IV) processing

Mabel Covarrubias-Doucette (DL), Salem, MA
Poorvi Rohit Chothani, Mumbai, India
Marshall Lewis Cohen, Atlanta, GA

BUSINESS

Sun C, Ballroom Level

7:00 am–8:00 am

Workshop: Deep Dive into Responding to H-1B RFEs

This advanced, interactive workshop will present and explore best practices in developing responses to the latest requests for evidence (RFEs) in H-1B petitions.

- H-1B specialty occupation RFEs: latest trends
- Occupations and Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) codes that provoke an RFE
 - SOC mismatches
 - “Specialty occupation” challenges and SOC code updates
- Responding to the four prongs, use of the Occupational Outlook Handbook (OOH), O*Net, expert opinions, strategies
- Beneficiary qualification: nexus issues, combo evaluations, and non-conforming degrees

Diane M. Butler (DL), Seattle, WA

(DL) = Discussion Leader

** = invited, not confirmed*

Note: All sessions and events are subject to change without notice.

*Marketa Lindt, AILA Past President/AILA Benefits Litigation Committee Vice Chair,
Chicago, IL*

Robert Lee DeMoss II, Atlanta, Georgia

Joseph John Shepherd, New York, NY

8:00 am–8:30 am

Networking Break

8:30 am–9:30 am

Alternatives to the H-1B You and Your Client Should Consider

Panelists will provide an overview of immediate and long-term options and considerations for nonimmigrants who do not have a clear-cut path forward but are looking to extend their stay in the United States. They also will examine practical considerations when advising clients on timelines and strategy, as well as potential pitfalls.

- Back to school: issues with first-term CPT on future petitions
- I-539 change of status to B1/B2: Is it worth the trouble?
- Creative NIV alternatives worth consideration
- Long-term options that require a client to temporarily leave the United States
- Is labor certification an option?

Matthew D. Stump (DL), Oklahoma City, OK

Denyse Sabagh, AILA Past President, Washington, D.C.

Roger Tsai, Denver, CO

Catherine V. Wadhwani, Pittsburgh, PA

9:30 am–10:00 am

Networking Break

10:00 am–11:00 am

Labor Condition Application: More than Meets the Eye

Employers who petition for an H-1B visa make certain attestations to the government. Panelists will explore these attestations, as well as potential employer and counsel liabilities in the labor condition application (LCA) process.

- Public access folder (PAF): requirements, retention, compliance
- Concerns surrounding third-party worksites, including determining wage levels and drafting issues
- The remote workforce: determining “home office” location and posting requirements
- Trends in electronic public access files and LCA postings
- The Fraud Detection National Security (FDNS) site visit: What to do, how to counsel, triggers for home office visits

Lynn Susser (DL), Memphis TN

(DL) = Discussion Leader

** = invited, not confirmed*

Note: All sessions and events are subject to change without notice.

Kevin W. Miner, USCIS HQ (Benefits Policy) Liaison Committee Vice Chair, Atlanta, GA
Stephanie S. Pimentel, Richardson, TX

11:00 am–12:30 pm

Lunch and Exhibit Hall Break

FAMILY

Lafayette, Ballroom Level

7:00 am–8:00 am

Dissecting the Intersection of Family Court and Immigration

Family law often plays a key role in immigration practice. Family court proceedings and dispositions, ranging from marriage to divorce, custody, adoption and guardianships, survivors of violence, and more, can have a critical impact on immigrant clients. Panelists will dissect the complex intersection of family court issues and federal immigration laws.

- Using the family court process to support affirmative and defensive immigration applications
 - 42B relief, I-130, I-360s, I-485s, and more
- How to obtain marriage, hardship, and domestic violence evidence through the family court process
- Managing immigration deadlines affected by family court proceedings
- Domestic violence, restraining orders, and other proceedings for victims

Steven C. Thal (DL), Minnetonka, MN

Annelise Araujo, Boston, MA

Aundrea L. Roberts, Lawrenceville, GA

Rocio La Rosa, Los Angeles, CA

8:00 am–8:30 am

Networking Break

8:30 am–9:30 am

NVC and DOS Consular Processing for Family

Immigrant visa processing for family-based cases at the consulate has distinct steps and procedures that, at times, vary considerably from adjustment of status. Advocating for clients becomes even more difficult at the consulate when a case is denied. Panelists will help practitioners get it right the first time when dealing with difficult or high-volume consular posts. They also will advise on best practices for working with clients abroad who require waivers, and for communicating the complexities of the process to clients during representation.

- Overcoming denials at difficult consulates
- Errors and communication with consular officers
- I-601 and I-212 waivers

(DL) = Discussion Leader

** = invited, not confirmed*

Note: All sessions and events are subject to change without notice.

- Evaluating and advising clients on risks of consular processing
- Ethical communication and disclosure for duration of representation

Stephen R. Pattison (DL), DOS Liaison Committee, Portsmouth, NH

Micki Buschart, Kansas City, MO

Jessica Dawn Jensen, Finance Committee/Investment Committee, Winnipeg, MB

9:30 am–10:00 am

Networking Break

10:00 am–11:00 am

The Council Presents the Complicated State of Immigration Policy in Biden’s Third Year

The whirlwind of policy changes has continued in the third year of the Biden administration. What is the current situation at the southern border, and where are we headed nationally with a divided Congress? Though some processing times have begun to improve at USCIS and DOS, how have Trump era policies continued to impact overall immigration trends to the United States? And what are the latest trends in interior enforcement and detention issues? Join the American Immigration Council for a discussion of where the administration has made meaningful progress, where it has failed to meet its commitments, and what comes next in the world of immigration policy impacting the U.S. system of legal immigration.

Jorge Loweree (DL), Managing Director of Programs and Strategy, American Immigration Council, Washington, D.C.

Mo Kantner, Director of State & Local Initiatives, American Immigration Council, Washington, D.C.

Aaron Reichlin Melnick, Policy Director, American Immigration Council, Washington, D.C.

Rebekah Wolf, Policy Council, Immigration Justice Campaign, Washington, D.C.

11:00 am–12:30 pm

Lunch and Exhibit Hall Break

LITIGATION & REMOVAL PROCEEDINGS

Coastal A, Ballroom Level

7:00 am–8:00 am

Don’t Let It Go: Contesting NTAs

The Notice to Appear (NTA) must be served on the respondent in a particular manner and contain specific factual and procedural information. All NTAs are charging documents, but not all charging documents are NTAs. It is important for attorneys to object to and otherwise challenge the NTA on the record of proceedings if service is improper, if the content is deficient or inaccurate, if there are grounds to contest the respondent’s removability, or if the evidence has been unconstitutionally obtained.

- How and when is the NTA served? How is service evidenced to the court?

(DL) = Discussion Leader

** = invited, not confirmed*

Note: All sessions and events are subject to change without notice.

- Identifying defective/deficient NTAs
- Motions to terminate, both involving *Pereira v. Sessions* and without
- Motions to re-NTA, motions to suppress
- Considerations to discuss with respondents in reviewing factual allegations

Eliana Christina Nader (DL), AILA Removal Defense Section Steering Committee Chair, Boston, MA

Rebeca Sanchez-Roig, Miami, FL

Lisa Shea, Washington D.C.

8:00 am–8:30 am

Networking Break

8:30 am–9:30 am

Opposing the Government’s Evidence before Immigration Judges

Once evidence is admitted formally or informally before an immigration judge, it becomes part of an official court record. Panelists will discuss the evidentiary standards that apply in immigration court proceedings, as well as tips on how to make and respond to objections in order to protect clients’ due process rights.

- Subpoenas and preserving the record on prejudice
- Responding to “proffer” of evidence by DHS
- The due process clause: assertion of guarantees (constitutional, statutory, regulatory)
- Burden shifting

Karl William Krooth (DL), San Francisco, CA

Rekha Sharma-Crawford, AILA Board of Governors, Kansas City, MO

Charles Roth, Chicago, IL

9:30 am–10:00 am

Networking Break

10:00 am–11:00 am

Opposing DHS Evidence before the Immigration Court

DHS often submits documents at the last minute, including police blotters from local newspapers. What constitutes evidence, its admissibility, its relevance, and the burdens of proof and persuasion can be confusing at times for both the parties and the immigration judge. Panelists on this advanced panel will address timely and important evidentiary issues that arise in challenging removability, preserving the record for higher review, and winning relief in removal proceedings.

- Burden of proof and burden of persuasion
- Motions to suppress and “fruit of the poisonous tree”
- Motions in limine

(DL) = Discussion Leader

** = invited, not confirmed*

Note: All sessions and events are subject to change without notice.

- Motions for issuance of subpoenas
- ICE policy memorandum regarding First Amendment rights of noncitizens

Lory Diana Rosenberg (DL), Asheville, NC

Felipe Alexandre, Flushing, NY

Ilana Etkin Greenstein, American Immigration Council, Washington, D.C.

11:00 am–12:30 pm

Lunch & Exhibit Hall Break

GOVERNMENT & LIAISON COMMITTEE OPEN FORUMS

Osceola, Ballroom Level

7:00 am–8:00 am

Detention Ombudsman Open Forum

Jennifer Ibañez Whitlock (DL), Policy Counsel, Washington, DC

*David Gersten, Acting Ombudsman, Office of the Immigration Detention Ombudsman,
DHS, Washington, DC*

*Carla Fall, Director of Case Management, Office of the Immigration Detention Ombudsman,
DHS, Washington, DC*

*Chiara Rodriguez, Capt. RN, USPHS, Office of the Immigration Detention Ombudsman, DHS,
Washington, DC*

8:00 am–8:30 am

Networking Break

8:30 am–9:30 am

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Open Forum

Ramon E. Curiel (DL), AILA CBP Liaison Committee Chair, San Antonio, TX

Nell W. Barker, AILA CBP Liaison Committee Vice Chair, Chicago, IL

*Graham S. Dudley, Director, Enforcement Programs Division Admissibility and Passenger
Programs, Office of Field Operations, U.S. Customs and Border Protection,
Washington, DC*

*Michael Balero, Area Port Director, Office of Field Operations, U.S. Customs and Border
Protection, Washington, DC*

9:30 am–10:00 am

Networking Break

10:00 am–11:00 am

U.S. Department of State (DOS) Open Forum

Fuji Whittenburg (DL), AILA DOS Liaison Committee Chair, Calabasas, CA

Steven D. Heller, AILA DOS Liaison Committee Member Vice Chair, Lewes, East Sussex, UK

Matthew McNeil, Attorney Adviser, Office of the Legal Adviser, Visas Advisory Opinions and

(DL) = Discussion Leader

** = invited, not confirmed*

Note: All sessions and events are subject to change without notice.

Litigation, U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs, Washington, D.C
Brian McInerney, Director for Global Visa Field Services, Department of State,
Washington, DC

PLENARY

Osceola, Ballroom Level

12:45 pm–2:30 pm

Plenary

Keynote Address

AILA is excited to invite you to explore the future of technology in immigration practice with Ed Walters, who will deliver the keynote address. Ed is the Chief Strategy Officer of vLex and the founder of Fastcase, a legal publishing company based in Washington, D.C. Fastcase and vLex merged in April 2023 to form one of the world's fastest-growing legal publishers. He is also an adjunct professor at the Georgetown University Law Center and Cornell Law School/Cornell Tech, where he teaches The Law of Robots.

President's Installation

Join your fellow AILA members to hear from AILA's outgoing president, Jeremy L. McKinney, about AILA's accomplishments during the past year. Following this, AILA's incoming president, Farshad Owji, will share his vision for AILA's future. Don't miss this chance to get to know Farshad and hear his plans for continuing to strengthen AILA during his tenure!

2:30 pm–2:50 pm

Networking Break

2:50 pm–4:30 pm

Hot Topics Strategy Session with the AILA National Officers

Jeremy L. McKinney (DL), AILA President, Greensboro, NC
Farshad Owji, AILA President-Elect San Francisco, CA
Kelli Stump, AILA First Vice President, Oklahoma City, OK
Jeff Joseph, AILA Second Vice President Aurora, CO
Alexis S. Axelrad, AILA Treasurer, New York, NY
Jacqueline Watson, AILA Secretary, Austin, TX
Benjamin Johnson, AILA Executive Director, Washington, D.C.

THURSDAY TRAININGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

7:00 am–3:00 pm

Registration

(DL) = Discussion Leader

** = invited, not confirmed*

Note: All sessions and events are subject to change without notice.

6:45 am–4:00 pm
Exhibit Hall Hours

6:00 pm–7:00 pm
AILA Annual Membership Meeting and Annual Awards
Lafayette, Ballroom Level

Yoga
7:00 am–8:00 am
Coquina Lawn, Exhibit Hall Level (outside)

Law Professors Interest Group
8:00 am–9:00 am
Naples 3, Ballroom Level 2

Virtual Practice Interest Group
8:00 am–9:00 am
Tampa 2-3, Ballroom Level 2

Hispanic Latin Interest Group
8:00 am–9:00 am
Miami, Ballroom Level 2

Innovation and Tech Committee
8:30 am–9:30 am
Sanibel 1, Ballroom Level 2

Middle Eastern Interest Group
8:30 am–9:30 am
Sanibel 2-3, Ballroom Level 2

Lawyer Well-being
9:00 am–10:00 am
Sarasota 3, Ballroom Level 2

H-2 Temporary Workers Interest Group
9:30 am–10:30 am
Tampa 2-3, Ballroom Level 2

LGBTG+ Lawyers Interest Group
9:30 am–10:30 am
Miami, Ballroom Level 2

(DL) = Discussion Leader

** = invited, not confirmed*

Note: All sessions and events are subject to change without notice.

AILALink Training

10:00 am–11:00 am

Suwannee 3-4, Mezzanine Level

High Impact Trends and Case Resolution Strategies

10:00 am–11:00 am

Sanibel 2-3, Convention Center Ballroom Level 2

Ethics Committee

10:00 am–11:00 am

Sanibel 1, Ballroom Level 2

African Diaspora Interest Group

10:00 am–11:00 am

Naples 3, Ballroom Level 2

Advocacy Session

11:00 am–12:00 pm

Sanibel 2-3, Convention Center Ballroom Level 2

Washington DC Chapter

11:00 am–12:00 pm

Miami, Ballroom Level 2

Missouri/Kansas Chapter

12:00 pm–1:00 pm

Tampa 2-3, Ballroom Level 2

TX/NM/OK Chapter

12:00 pm–1:00 pm

Suwannee 3-4, Mezzanine Level

Women in Immigration Law Group

1:00 pm–2:00 pm

Naples 3, Ballroom Level 2

Nonprofit Interest Group

2:00 pm–3:00 pm

Sarasota 3, Ballroom Level 2

Military Committee

3:00 pm–4:00 pm

Sanibel 1, Ballroom Level 2

(DL) = Discussion Leader

** = invited, not confirmed*

Note: All sessions and events are subject to change without notice.

Innovation and Tech Interest Group

3:30 pm–4:30 pm

Sarasota 3, Ballroom Level 2

Pro Bono Committee

4:30 pm–5:30 pm

Sanibel 1, Ballroom Level 2

Upstate NY Chapter

4:30 pm–6:00 pm

Sarasota 1-2, Ballroom Level 2

Central Florida Chapter

7:00 pm–8:00 pm

Miami, Ballroom Level 2

Pro Bono Hospitality Suite

7:00 pm–8:30 pm

Suwannee 3-4, Mezzanine Level

Carolinas Chapter Reception

7:30 pm–8:30 pm

Sarasota 1-2, Ballroom Level 2

FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 2022

FUNDAMENTALS

Sun A, Ballroom Level

7:30 am–8:30 am

Anatomy of a Removal Proceeding I

Representing clients in removal proceedings requires skill, innovation, and perseverance.

Panelists on part I of this two-part fundamentals session will provide you with the essentials you need to be an effective litigator in immigration court.

- Commencement of proceedings: reviewing the notice to appear
- Deportability vs. inadmissibility
- Who bears the burden?
- Available forms of relief

Laura Flores Bachman (DL), Washington, D.C.

Julio Cortes del Olmo, Brookline, MA

Deifilia Maria Diaz, Cincinnati, OH

(DL) = Discussion Leader

** = invited, not confirmed*

Note: All sessions and events are subject to change without notice.

8:30 am–9:00 am

Networking Break

9:00 am–10:00 am

Anatomy of a Removal Proceeding II

Now that the basics have been covered, panelists in part II of this two-part fundamental session will focus on the procedural side of representing clients in removal proceedings.

- Master calendar hearings
- Motions, applications, and evidence
- Prosecutorial discretion requests
- Prehearing briefs
- Individual hearing: preparing for it, procedure involved
- Inadmissibility and deportability

Sabrina Rachel Damast (DL), Amicus Committee Chair, Los Angeles, CA

Kas Shealy, Oakland, CA

Jessie Marie Schreier, Coral Gables, FL

10:00 am–10:30 am

Networking Break

10:30 am–11:30 am

Cancellation Fundamentals

Panelists will discuss how EOIR-42B and EOIR-42A applications for cancellation of removal can be used to overcome inadmissibility and deportability in removal proceedings. They also will address best practices for demonstrating hardship effectively.

- LPR and non-LPR cancellation requirements
- Continuous residence and what stops the clock
- Exceptional and extremely unusual hardship to a qualifying relative
- Good moral character, criminal convictions, and other “moral failings”
- Establishing your client merits a favorable exercise of discretion

Maggie Arias (DL), Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, Coral Gables, FL

Erin T. Hall, Seattle, WA

Julia Toro, Washington, D.C.

11:30 am–12:00 pm

Networking Break

12:00 pm–1:00 pm

Crimmigration: Immigration Consequences of Criminal Activity

(DL) = Discussion Leader

** = invited, not confirmed*

Note: All sessions and events are subject to change without notice.

Our clients sometimes get into serious legal trouble. Speakers in this session will provide a primer on the common grounds of removability that arise from criminal activity. They also will identify and discuss available options for relief.

- Common criminal grounds of removability as reflected in state and federal criminal statutes
- Definition of a “criminal conviction” for immigration purposes
- Post-conviction relief in criminal court affecting removability

Kevin A. Gregg (DL), San Diego, CA

Cory Forman, AILA Board of Governors, New York, NY

Nerea Sholl Woods, San Diego, CA

Emma Winger, American Immigration Council, Washington, D.C.

1:00 pm–2:00 pm

Lunch Break

2:00 pm–3:00 pm

Detention Fundamentals

Representing detained clients can be one of the more difficult and demanding immigration practice areas. Panelists in this fundamentals session will discuss several issues related to detention practice, including client access, bond hearings, and mandatory detention.

- Accessing your client and communicating with your client
- Release, parole, and bond
- Mandatory detention
- Bond requests and hearings

Russell Abrutyn (DL), AILA Michigan Chapter Chair, AILA Membership Committee Chair, Berkley, MI

Brian Patrick Casson, Falls Church, VA

Lorna M. Julien, Washington, D.C.

Juliana G. Lamardo, Miami, FL

BUSINESS

Coastal A, Ballroom Level

7:30 am–8:30 am

Options for Non-Physician Medical Professionals

Allied healthcare workers are critical to the U.S. healthcare system. Panelists will discuss options for bringing trained professionals to the United States. They also will address limited visa options, Schedule A, credentialing, foreign recruitment, and common pitfalls.

- Overview of allied healthcare workers: nurses, OTs, PTs, SLPs
- NIV options for allied healthcare workers

(DL) = Discussion Leader

** = invited, not confirmed*

Note: All sessions and events are subject to change without notice.

- IV options and retrogression issues
- Schedule A, prevailing wages, and changes in employment
- Common pitfalls for employers

Christopher T. Musillo (DL), Cincinnati, OH

Amy Erlbacher-Anderson, AILA Business Section Steering Committee Vice Chair, Omaha, NE

Elissa J. Taub, Memphis, TN

Barry J. Walker, Tupelo, MS

8:30 am–9:00 am

Networking Break

9:00 am-10:00 am

Hot Topics in Compliance, including Form I-9

The pandemic and the rise of remote work have led to significant changes in the employment eligibility verification compliance landscape. Panelists on this intermediate to advanced session will provide an overview of where things stand today, and they will examine the issues you need to be aware of to help clients maintain compliant programs in this ever-changing environment.

- Current Form I-9 version: What was changed?
- Compliance for remote workers: best practices for preventing violations and utilizing authorized representatives
- How ICE is handling employer practices under the temporary “virtual” policy
- Latest developments in USCIS efforts to allow alternatives to in-person document review
- E-Verify issues
- Social security “no-match” letters

Kimberley Best Robidoux (DL), AILA Verification & Documentation Liaison Committee Vice Chair, San Diego, CA

Alissa G. Brodie, Denver, CO

Rachel Levy Magaziner, Houston, TX

Avram E. Morell, New York, NY

10:00 am–10:30 am

Networking Break

10:30 am–11:30 am

Form I-9 Notices of Inspection: What to Do When ICE Comes Knocking

Panelists on this intermediate level session will provide an overview of the I-9 inspection process. Panelists will advise on how to represent your client effectively throughout the process, including negotiating with the government and challenging government findings.

- Best practices for responding to a notice of inspection (NOI)
- Notice of technical and procedural failures, suspect documents, and/or intent to fine

(DL) = Discussion Leader

** = invited, not confirmed*

Note: All sessions and events are subject to change without notice.

- ICE fine matrix
- Working with your client to correct/defend and negotiate with ICE
- How and when to challenge through OCAHO

Amy L. Peck (DL), AILA Verification & Documentation Liaison Committee Chair, Omaha, NE
Bruce E. Buchanan, Nashville, TN
Kelli Duehning, San Francisco, CA
Eileen M.G. Scofield, Atlanta, GA

11:30 am–12:00 pm
Networking Break

12:00 pm–1:00 pm
Tricky Turns for TNs

This intermediate panel will cover current trends and challenges with TN adjudications at the border and at consulates. These include Management Consultants, Scientific Technicians/Technologists, Agriculturalists, Economists, and other hard to define occupations.

- Considerations at different ports of entry
- Current trends at consulates in Mexico
- When is U.S. licensure required?
- Challenging categories: management consultants, scientific technicians/technologists, agriculturalists, economists
- Qualifying sales professionals as TN professionals
- Strategies when the applicant is a manager or executive of listed occupations

Danielle M. Rizzo (DL), Buffalo, NY
Kathleen Campbell Walker, AILA Past President, El Paso, TX
Leslie A. Holman, AILA Past President/Business Section Steering Committee, Burlington, VT
Matthew I. Hirsch, AILA Business Section Steering Committee, Wayne, PA

1:00 pm–2:00 pm
Lunch Break

2:00 pm–3:00 pm
Working with Experts to Facilitate Pre-Immigration Tax Planning

Clients who spend significant amounts of time in the United States, even in nonimmigrant status, may become U.S. tax residents. Panelists will focus on topics of particular importance to business and investor visa practitioners, including the intersection of immigration status and tax law, and how clients can optimize their tax positions with a proactive approach to tax planning.

- When nonimmigrants become “residents” for tax purposes: taxation of worldwide income, applicable exceptions

(DL) = Discussion Leader
** = invited, not confirmed*

Note: All sessions and events are subject to change without notice.

- Selecting the optimal business entity (LLC vs. corporation) and the right type of tax professional (CPA vs. tax attorney)
- Obtaining a FEIN for clients who are outside the United States
- The importance of properly maintained books and tax filings for employment-based IV and NIV applications
- Pre-immigration tax planning, use of tax treaties to optimize the client’s tax obligations

*James Chesser (DL), Online Course and Recorded Content Review Committee Vice Chair,
Simpsonville, SC*

David B. Gardner, Beverly Hills, CA

3:00 pm–3:15 pm

Networking Break

3:15 pm–4:15 pm

Treaty Trader/Investor Visas: Beyond the Basics

The treaty trader (E-1) and treaty investor (E-2) visa categories allow nationals of countries with which the United States maintains a treaty of commerce and navigation to be admitted to the United States to invest in a U.S. entity or engage in international trade. Panelists will cover considerations for practitioners trying to decide whether E-1 or E-2 visas are viable options and, if so, if they are the most appropriate option for your client.

- Issues surrounding nationality/dual nationality/corporate nationality
- Sources, types and amounts of qualifying investments, including gifts and loans
- Substantiality and marginality
- Strategic consideration surrounding change of status and extension of status on processing at a consulate
- Material changes and amendments

Shavit Yarden (DL), New York, NY

Alka Bahal, Morristown, NJ

Henry J. Chang, Toronto, ON

4:15 pm–4:30 pm

Networking Break

4:30 pm–5:30 pm

Risky “Business”: Permissible and Impermissible Activities

The B-1 is one of the most useful, and arguably most confusing, visa categories for employers and employees alike. The most obvious use—to attend business meetings or participate in brief trainings in the United States—is often unintentionally exploited by employers who misunderstand the permissible uses under the B-1 visa. However, when properly used, the B-1 visa can be a valuable tool for a wide range of employers, particularly when other visa types are not readily available, applicable, or are time consuming or difficult to obtain.

(DL) = Discussion Leader

** = invited, not confirmed*

Note: All sessions and events are subject to change without notice.

- Permissible business activities: Foreign Affairs Manual, *Matter of Hira*, regulations
- Work authorization: B-1, B-1 in lieu of H-1/H-3, after sales service, and more
- B-1 vs. ESTA: benefits and drawbacks
- Procedural issues, including consular backlogs
- Aftermath: bridging and maintenance of status issues
- When does a visitor for commercial purposes cross the line?
- Scenarios: volunteering, working for a foreign entity, independent contractors, etc.

Lawrence H. Rudnick (DL), Philadelphia, PA
Angelo A. Paparelli, Los Angeles, CA
Heather N. Segal, Toronto, ON

FAMILY

Sun C, Ballroom Level

7:30 am–8:30 am

VAWA and Self-Petitions for Battered Spouse, Children, and Parents

In this country, more than 20,000 calls are placed daily to domestic violence hotlines, with our immigrant clients comprising many of these victims. Panelists will address the resulting potential impacts on victims' legal status, as well as their immigration options. They also will discuss eligibility considerations and using VAWA as a bridge between other benefits when clients are not eligible to adjust.

- Ethical considerations representing clients with VAWA claims
- Filings, RFEs, and related procedural issues
- Recent updates: policies, memos, and adjudication trends
- VAWA for indirect victims: parents, children, removal respondents
- Proving and documenting non-physical abuse
- Screening for and advising on abuse in light of cultural and societal considerations

Parastoo Golesorkhi Zahedi (DL), AILA Board of Governors, Vienna, VA
Paola Ivonne Neri-Michel, AILA Southern California Chapter Chair, Los Angeles, CA
Omar Andres Salguero, Rockford, IL
Nicole Weitnauer, Atlanta, GA

8:30 am-9:00 am

Networking Break

9:00 am–10:00 am

Creative Strategies to Overcome Marriage Fraud Presumptions

Bona fide marriages are the cornerstone of successful I-130 petitions and family-based adjustments. Understanding and avoiding the risks of a finding that a client has entered into a marriage for the sole purpose of circumventing immigration laws is critical. Also crucial is recognizing the “red flags” of marriage fraud and sham marriages. Our expert panelists will

(DL) = Discussion Leader

** = invited, not confirmed*

Note: All sessions and events are subject to change without notice.

cover these defined terms, caselaw, presumptions and burden of proof, and strategies for responding to USCIS concerns about possible fraud.

- Classic indicators of fraud
- Documenting not so apparent bona fides and viable marriages
- Responding to notices of intent to deny (NOIDs) and §204(c) findings
- Fraud Detection and National Security (FDNS) investigations and best defense practices

Alan J. Pollack (DL), Newark, NJ

Tessa Maria Cabrera, San Diego, CA

Jeffrey A. Devore, Palm Beach Gardens, FL

Satnam Singh, Norfolk, VA

10:00 am–10:30 am

Networking Break

10:30 am–11:30 am

Family-Based Hardship Waivers

Waiver applications requiring a showing of “extreme hardship” to a family member who is a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident (LPR) present evidentiary hurdles that seem inordinately high, particularly given the paucity of regulations from USCIS outside the criminal context and lack of DOS guidance for consular processing immigrant visa cases. Panelists will discuss meeting the hardship standard and advise on best practices for filing waiver cases. They also will address how to assess eligibility, risks, and timing of waiver filings.

- Adjustment of status vs. consular processing, using advance parole
- When prior unlawful presence under INA §212(a)(9)(B) no longer applies
 - USCIS Policy Alert PA-2022-15
- I-601 vs. I-601A: procedures and milestones
- Documenting hardship: primary/secondary evidence, psychological evaluations
- Section I-212 waivers: process and strategies
- Strategies for cases in proceedings

Elina Magaly Santana (DL), Miami, FL

Bridgette M. Bennett, Groveland, FL

Kevin Lawrence Dixler, Chicago, IL

Mariela G. Shibley, Psy.D., San Diego, CA

11:30 am–12:00 pm

Networking Break

12:00 pm–1:00 pm

Tips, Tricks, and Pitfalls in Submitting Family Cases

(DL) = Discussion Leader

** = invited, not confirmed*

Note: All sessions and events are subject to change without notice.

The first major hurdle in any family-based case is successful filing and acceptance of the petition or application by the Service Center or Lockbox. Rejections can cost a client weeks or even months. Panelists will alert practitioners to traps for the unwary, give time tested tips and tricks to get filing fees and fee waivers correct, and advise on how to increase chances of having filings accepted with fewer RFEs.

- Tips to get filing fees and fee waivers correct
- Packaging the case and getting past the mailroom
- Initial evidence and filing strategies: Up-front or at interview
- Interview waivers
- Complicated I-864 and financial sponsor issues
- Managing changes of address for clients and counsel

William Niffen II (DL), North Kansas City, MO

Michael R. Jarecki, AILA Board of Governors, Chicago IL

Joseph Tsang, Artesia, CA

1:00 pm–2:00 pm

Lunch Break

2:00 pm–3:00 pm

Representing Clients with Criminal Histories, CIMT, and §212(h) Waivers

Whether filing for a nonimmigrant visa or an immigrant visa, your otherwise inadmissible client may be eligible for a waiver. Panelists will provide an overview of immigrant and nonimmigrant waivers, focusing on who qualifies and how to file.

- Reading criminal dispositions and understanding what constitutes a “conviction” for immigration law purposes
- Deciding what documents to provide
- Filing a waiver before consular processing and interview, when to file the waiver
- Potential arguments for a single conviction
- Applicability of §212(c), §212(h), and other waivers

Jason C. Mills (DL), Fort Worth, TX

Davorin John Odracic, Milwaukee, WI

Hardeep Sull, Las Vegas, NV

3:00 pm–3:15 pm

Networking Break

3:15 pm–4:15 pm

Determining whether Your Client Is a U.S. Citizen

A lesser known but powerful tool, one more commonly used for children, the N-600 can also greatly benefit adults. Panelists will dive into the mechanics of filing an N-600 application and

(DL) = Discussion Leader

** = invited, not confirmed*

Note: All sessions and events are subject to change without notice.

analyzing eligibility for acquiring citizenship. They also will address managing pitfalls and documentation challenges.

- Filing the N-600 for children and adults
- Rules before and after the Child Citizenship Act (CCA), looking at the date of birth
- Effects of being born in and out of wedlock
- Best practices to determine whether your client qualifies for the N-600
- Affidavits and other alternatives when primary source documents are lacking

Elizabeth A. Wood (DL) New Bern, NC

Irene A. Steffas, Marietta, GA

Michelle L. Lazerow, Rockville, MD

4:15 pm–4:30 pm

Networking Break

4:30 pm–5:30 pm

Section 245(i) and Grandfathering: A Refresher

Several decades have passed since the inauguration of INA §245(i) as a means to adjust for entries without inspection (EWIs) and overstays subject to the three- and ten-year bars.

Panelists will review the body of case law and rules permitting §245(i) adjustment, the interplay with §245(a), §245(c), and I-601A waivers, derivative benefits, and documentation challenges.

- Background of INA §245(i)
- Documenting §245(i) eligibility
- Beneficiary’s history and changed circumstances
- Evaluating eligibility for §245(i) beneficiaries beyond the principal

Reginald A. Pacis (DL), Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, Detroit, MI

Christine M. Hernandez, Denver, CO

Helen Parsonage, Winston-Salem, NC

Eric R. Welsh, Pasadena, CA

LITIGATION & REMOVAL PROCEEDINGS

Osceola A, Ballroom Level

7:30 am–8:30 am

“The Trial” in Immigration Court

Respondents are not public speakers, and some aren’t great listeners in court either. Panelists will give suggestions for mapping out, from start to finish, an effective trial proceeding for your client at their merits hearing.

- Effective use of opening and closing statements

(DL) = Discussion Leader

** = invited, not confirmed*

Note: All sessions and events are subject to change without notice.

- Techniques for direct examination that aid your client in being responsive to the questions asked
- Handling witness badgering and other aggressive tactics used by ICE attorneys
- Preparing for cross-examination and immigration judge questioning
- Objections: How to pick your battles
- Exposing inaccuracies of interpreters
- Protecting expert witness from ICE challenges

Juan Camilo Parrado (DL), Chicago, IL

Sui Chung, AILA Board of Governors, Miami, FL

Sarah Weston Hayes Owings, AILA Board of Governors, Atlanta, GA

Tess Feldman, Los Angeles, CA

8:30 am–9:00 am

Networking Break

9:00 am–10:00 am

Your Client’s Greatest Weapon: The Use of Storytelling in Immigration Court

Weaving a compelling narrative that incorporates your specific facts in a way that resonates with the judge can be a critical tool for practitioners. Panelists will focus on how to prepare your case to present a compelling record of events that will make your audience feel invested. They will advise on preparing the application, supporting your case, and successfully navigating the final merits hearing.

- Developing a theme for your case
- Building rapport and trust to get your client to open up
- Preparing the application and exhibits in support
- Dress rehearsal before the show
- Showtime at hearing

Anthony Drago Jr. (DL), Boston, MA

Kendra Hejboel Scheuerlein, Chicago, IL

Erich C. Straub, Milwaukee, WI

10:00 am–10:30 am

Networking Break

10:30 am–11:30 am

Dispositive Motions: Requests for Administrative Closure, Dismissal, Termination, Status Dockets, and Prosecutorial Discretion

As immigration practitioners, we often can see where we need to take our client, but how do we get there from here? And what do we do when the best course of action is simply to avoid the status quo, but OPLA unilaterally seeks to maintain it? Panelists will advise on choosing and

(DL) = Discussion Leader

** = invited, not confirmed*

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pursuing maneuvers to get your client in the best position to pursue collateral relief or minimize damages if the status quo is kept.

- Why you might object to government's motions to dismiss and available alternatives
- Administrative closure as an alternative to termination
- Recognizing termination as an order foreclosing the government from issuing new NTA or recalendaring a terminated NTA
- Using the sword (collateral estoppel) vs. the shield (res judicata)

Buxton Reed Bailey (DL), Raleigh, NC

Cynthia A. Aziz, Annual Conference Committee, Charlotte, NC

Mary Lynn A. Tedesco, Charlotte, NC

Patrick F. Valdez, Inglewood, CA

11:30 am–12:00 pm

Networking Break

12:00 pm–1:00 pm

What Just Happened? Client and Witness Preparation

We all want to avoid surprise testimony. To this end, it is important to determine what methods of witness preparation are optimal for your client. Panelists will address how best to prepare for the rigors of the immigration courtroom experience.

- Shock and awe: Helping your client handle inflammatory statements or accusations from ICE attorneys
- Qualifying expert witnesses, preparing for ICE attorney attempts to disqualify experts
- Consulting with OPLA before hearing to narrow issues
 - Determining the possibility of stipulated agreement to relief
 - Dealing with barriers to relief
- Dealing with difficult judges: When to object?
- Preparing your witnesses for court TV (WebEx)

Cynthia A. Aziz (DL), Annual Conference Committee, Charlotte, NC

Kelli A. Fennell, Chicago, IL

Andrew James Rankin, Memphis, TN

1:00 pm–2:00 pm

Lunch Break

2:00 pm–3:00 pm

The Kids Are Not Alright: Ethically Representing Children in Removal Proceedings (ETHICS)

Everyone has heard stories and seen pictures of children crossing the border into the United States, but what happens to them after they get here? How do they hire a lawyer and advocate

(DL) = Discussion Leader

** = invited, not confirmed*

Note: All sessions and events are subject to change without notice.

for themselves in court? It may be easier to do this if they entered with a parent or guardian, but that isn't always true. Panelists will discuss:

- Treatment of unaccompanied children at the border
 - Assignment to shelters or release to family/guardians
 - How is a child who is barely old enough to speak able to defend themselves?
- Ethical representation when an adult hires you
 - Representing both the adult and the child vs. only the child
 - When and how to ethically sever a child's case from their parent's case
- Treatment of unaccompanied children in court and in the asylum process
 - Helping minors craft their application and tell their story effectively
 - Where to file their asylum applications

Meghann Eileen LaFountain (DL), Middletown, CT

Victoria Carmona, Chicago, IL

Sally Monteith Joyner, Memphis, TN

Sara M. Mailander, Boston, MA

3:00 pm–3:15 pm

Networking Break

Sun A, Ballroom Level

3:15 pm–4:15 pm

I Think My Client Lied: Ethical and Practical Obligations in Immigration Court

(ETHICS)

Everyone dreads the day when they discover that information provided by the client was not true.

When it does happen, what does it mean for you as their attorney, and for them as a respondent?

Panelists will discuss:

- When fraud must be reported
- Implications of filing a frivolous asylum application
- What to do when you learn (or suspect) that a client is using/has used fraudulent documents in immigration court
- Is it ever okay to file an application with USCIS that will send your client into removal proceedings?
- When to consider withdrawing and how to do so

Ginger McGuire (DL), Englewood, CO

David N. Simmons, Englewood, CO

4:15 pm–4:30 pm

Networking Break

(DL) = Discussion Leader

** = invited, not confirmed*

Note: All sessions and events are subject to change without notice.

4:30 pm–5:30 pm

COVID Ended the In-Person Trial Star: Telephonic and Televideo Hearings

Telephonic and televideo hearings are not new to immigration court. In recent years, however, EOIR has rapidly and widely expanded the use of mandatory virtual technologies in immigration hearings. This practice raises due process concerns for noncitizens in removal proceedings. Experienced panelists will share their insights on how to adapt one’s trial tactics for this format.

- When and how to object to a video proceeding
 - What to expect from WebEx, pros and cons to merits hearings via video
- Tips on best preparing your client to give testimony
 - Demeanor, tenor of voice, how to react to inconsistencies and contradictions
- How to affect the tone of virtual proceedings in favor of your client
- What to do when you or your client experiences technical difficulties

Michael S. Vastine (DL), Miami Gardens, FL

Anam Rahman, Washington, DC

Ben Winograd, Alexandria, VA

GOVERNMENT & LIAISON COMMITTEE OPEN FORUMS

Osceola C, Ballroom Level

7:30 am–8:30 am

CIS Ombudsman Open Forum

- Updates and Hot Topics
- CIS Ombudsman Policy Initiatives
- Annual Report
- Key Trends and Systemic Issues Impacting CIS Ombudsman’s Casework

Nicole Simon (DL), AILA USCIS Case Assistance Committee Chair, Philadelphia, PA

Lucy G. Cheung, AILA USCIS Case Assistance Committee Vice Chair, New York, NY

Nathan Stiefel, Acting CIS Ombudsman, Office of the CIS Ombudsman, Washington, D.C.

Elissa McGovern, Chief, Policy Division, Office of the CIS Ombudsman, Washington, D.C.

Adrienne Chulapakorn, Chief, Casework Division, Office of the CIS Ombudsman, Washington, D.C.

8:30 am–9:00 am

Networking Break

9:00 am–10:00 am

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Open Forum

- Breaking News/Hot Topics
- Update on USCIS Strategic Plan for fiscal years 2023 to 2026

(DL) = Discussion Leader

** = invited, not confirmed*

Note: All sessions and events are subject to change without notice.

- USCIS Technology/innovation initiatives
- Regulatory changes on the horizon
- Adjudications/policy updates
- Backlogs, customer service

Robin D. O'Donoghue (DL), AILA USCIS HQ (Benefits Policy) Liaison Committee Chair, Cambridge, MA

Kevin W. Miner, AILA USCIS HQ (Benefits Policy) Liaison Committee Vice Chair, Atlanta, GA

Andrew Davidson, Acting Deputy Director, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Washington, D.C.

Carrie Selby, Associate Director, External Affairs Directorate, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Washington, D.C.

Doug Rand, Senior Advisor to the Director, Office of the Director, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Washington, D.C.

Connie Nolan, Associate Director, Service Center Operations Directorate, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Washington, D.C.

Anna Chau, Deputy Associate Director, Field Operations Directorate, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Washington, D.C.

10:00 am–10:30 am

Networking Break

10:30 am–11:30 am

Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) Open Forum

Amanda Bethea Keaveny (DL), AILA EOIR Liaison Committee Chair, Charleston, SC

Andrew K. Nietor, AILA EOIR Liaison Committee Vice Chair, San Diego, CA

Daniel H. Weiss, Deputy Chief Immigration Judge, Office of the Chief Immigration Judge, EOIR, Falls Church, VA

H. Kevin Mart, Assistant Chief Immigration Judge, Office of the Chief Immigration Judge, EOIR, Falls Church, VA

Garry D. Malphrus, Deputy Chief Appellate Immigration Judge, Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA), Falls Church, VA

Krishma Parsad Mastroianni, Director of Operations, Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA), Falls Church, VA

11:30 am–12:00 pm

Networking Break

12:00 pm–1:00 pm

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Open Forum

- The latest on Prosecutorial discretion (PD), including the impact of the U.S. Supreme Court's expected decision in *United States v. Texas*

(DL) = Discussion Leader

** = invited, not confirmed*

Note: All sessions and events are subject to change without notice.

- Pre-hearing conferences in immigration court: what is working, what is not working, and areas for collaboration
- Implementation of electronic-only bond payments through CeBONDS
- Updates on detention and Alternatives to Detention (ATD) program

Aaron Hall (DL), AILA ICE Liaison Committee Chair, Aurora, CO

Amy Bittner, AILA ICE Liaison Committee Vice Chair, Columbus, OH

Kerry E. Doyle, Principal Legal Advisor for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Washington, D.C.

Daniel Bible, Deputy Executive Associate Director, ERO, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Enforcement and Removal Operations, Washington, D.C.

Claire Trickler-McNulty, Acting Director, Immigration and Program Evaluation, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Washington, D.C.

1:00 pm–2:00 pm

Lunch Break

2:00 pm–3:00 pm

U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) Open Forum

- Personnel, Policy, and Program Updates
- Latest Developments on New PERM Application (ETA 9089)
- Updates on PERM and Prevailing Wage Processing Times
- H-2A and H-2B Developments

Vincent W. Lau (DL), AILA DOL Liaison Committee Chair, Boston, MA

Bob White, AILA DOL Liaison Committee Vice Chair, Schaumburg, IL

**Kathy Valerin, Deputy Administrator, ETA, OFLC, DOL, Washington, D.C.*

**Brian Testa, Director, Division of Policy and Regulation, OFLC, DOL, Washington, D.C.*

**Brandt Carter, Director, Atlanta Processing Center, DOL, Atlanta, GA*

**Lindsey Baldwin, Director, National Prevailing Wage Center, DOL, Washington, D.C.*

SPECIAL SESSIONS

Lafayette, Mezzanine Level

2:00 pm–3:00 pm

USCIS Enhances Customer Experience with Additional Online Tools (No CLE)

This summer, USCIS will launch several new digital tools that will expand your access to services. You can get a sneak peak at these new features during a special session where USCIS officials will show you how to request an appointment, reschedule a biometrics appointment, update an address on file with USCIS, and more

Albert (Al) Eskalis, USCIS

Janna Evans, USCIS

Mark Jeanmarie, USCIS

(DL) = Discussion Leader

** = invited, not confirmed*

Note: All sessions and events are subject to change without notice.

Vashon Citizen, USCIS

3:15 pm–4:15 pm

Who Wants to Be a Millionaire Immigration Attorney (No CLE)

Audience members will be selected to play a fast-paced and educational game answering easy-to-difficult questions on a variety of immigration law issues. Contestants will “risk it all” by moving up the game’s financial ladder. Don’t know the answer? Poll the audience! Use a lifeline! Ask THE expert-Ira Kurzban! Learn about the latest issues in immigration in this fun and interactive session. Arrive a few minutes early to enter your name into the drawing to be a contestant and for a chance to win a free registration for AC24!

Gregory Romanovsky, cohost, Boston, MA

Stefanie Fisher-Pinkert, cohost, Boston, MA

Ira J. Kurzban, AILA Past President/AILA Author, Kurzban's Immigration Law Sourcebook, 18th ed., Coral Gables, FL

4:30 pm–6:30 pm

Bad State Bills Targeting Immigrants: An Emergency Open Forum for Resistance, Response, and Reporting on the Current State of Florida (No CLE)

- Updates on breaking litigation strategies addressing Florida [SB1718](#) and [SB264](#)
- Advising employers, immigrants, and the public on unexpected pitfalls and consequences
- Redirecting state-level advocacy: understanding the current landscape and lessons learned through past wins and losses
- Acting now: what attorneys can do to best protect their clients, build partnerships, and impact the future course of state legislation.

Sui Chung, AILA Board of Governors, Miami, FL

Ira J. Kurzban, AILA Past President/AILA Author, Kurzban's Immigration Law Sourcebook, 18th ed., Coral Gables, FL

Kate Melloy Goettel, Legal Director of Litigation, American Immigration Council, Washington, D.C.

Invited speakers from SPLC and the ACLU

FRIDAY TRAININGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

6:30 am

Superheroes 5K Run for Justice

Organized by the AILA Central FL Chapter, this fun 5k run taking place at the Gaylord Palm resort, will benefit the American Immigration Council and the Orlando Center for Justice. Visit the chapter table near registration on Exhibit Hall Level 1 for [more details](#) about how you can sign up or donate to support these organizations and the critical work they do. Race registration ends at 11:59 pm June 22. Runners should meet on Exhibit Hall Level 1, and head to the Mangrove Lawn/Convention Center Loop where they will exit the building.

(DL) = Discussion Leader

** = invited, not confirmed*

Note: All sessions and events are subject to change without notice.

7:00 am–3:00 pm

Registration

7:00 am–6:00 pm

Exhibit Hall Hours

Yoga

7:00 am–8:00 am

Coquina Lawn, Exhibit Hall Level (outside)

In-house Interest Group

8:00 am–9:00 am

Naples 3, Ballroom Level 2

Indian Subcontinent Interest Group

8:30 am–9:30 am

Sanibel 2-3, Ballroom Level 2

Santa Clara Chapter

8:00 am–10:00 am

Sarasota 1-2, Ballroom Level 2

AILALink Training

9:00 am–10:00 am

Suwannee 3-4, Mezzanine Level

New Jersey Chapter

11:30 am–1:00 pm

Lafayette 1, Mezzanine Level

Midsouth Chapter

12:00 pm–1:00 pm

Naples 3, Ballroom Level 2

Indigenous Issues Interest Group

12:00 pm–1:00 pm

Sanibel 1, Ballroom Level 2

Rome District Chapter

12:00 pm–2:00 pm

Miami, Ballroom Level 2

Immigrants List Luncheon

12:45 pm–2:30 pm

(DL) = Discussion Leader

** = invited, not confirmed*

Note: All sessions and events are subject to change without notice.

Desoto, Mezzanine Level

ACES Interest Group

1:00 pm–2:00 pm

Sanibel 2-3, Ballroom Level 2

Asia-Pacific Chapter

1:00 pm–2:00 pm

Sarasota 1-2, Ballroom Level 2

Latin America and Caribbean Chapter

1:00 pm–2:00 pm

Lafayette 2, Mezzanine Level

New England Chapter

1:00 pm–2:00 pm

Sarasota 3, Ballroom Level 2

Religious Workers Interest Group

1:00 pm–2:00 pm

Tampa 2-3, Ballroom Level 2

IMG Taskforce

5:00 pm–7:00 pm

Tallahassee, Ballroom Level 2

7:00 pm–10:00 pm

American Immigration Council's 2023 Immigration Impact Awards

Be a part of an exciting night filled with immigration heroes, old friends and new, and celebrating our creative writing contest winner. Visit the Council's booth #706 in the Exhibit Hall to learn more and register.

SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 2023

FUNDAMENTALS

Sun A, Ballroom Level

7:30 am–8:30 am

Alphabet Soup: Working Nonimmigrant Visas

Panelists will provide an overview and exploration of the basic elements for the most common business-based nonimmigrant visas and statuses, with an emphasis on helping your corporate and employee clients make the best choice (when a choice exists).

- B-1: What is allowed and what is not?

(DL) = Discussion Leader

** = invited, not confirmed*

Note: All sessions and events are subject to change without notice.

- H-1B: What are the odds of success?
- Treaty Visas: TN, H1B1, E1 and E2
 - E2 vs. EB-3 visas
- O and P
- L: Intermittent Ls, individual vs. blanket Ls
- H-2A and H-2B

Helena Tetzeli (DL), Miami, FL

Robert M. Birach, Southfield, MI

Nathalie Gottschalk, Las Vegas, NV

Caroline Mueller, Twinsburg, OH

8:30 am–9:00 am

Networking Break

9:00 am–10:00 am

More Alphabet Soup: Other Nonimmigrant Visas

Panelists will explore nonimmigrant visas and statuses used by foreign nationals looking to come to the United States for reasons other than employment. They will address everything from foreign government officials, to journalists, to students.

- A, G, and NATO visa
- C/D: crew and transit
- B-2: visitor for pleasure
- F, M, and J: students and scholars
- I: journalists
- R-1: religious workers
- Q: cultural exchange
- S, T, and U: crime-related visas

Julie Kruger (DL), AILA Board of Governors, Buffalo, NY

Lieselot Whitbeck, Distance Learning Committee Co-Chair, Stuart, FL

Chrystal Claire Green, Elk Grove, CA

10:00 am–10:30 am

Networking Break

10:30 am–11:30 am

Understanding the Basics: The Labor Certification (PERM) Process

The employment-based permanent residence process generally requires the U.S. employer to test the job market and obtain a certification from the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL). If you've never prepared a labor certification, join this session for the nuts and bolts of client

(DL) = Discussion Leader

** = invited, not confirmed*

Note: All sessions and events are subject to change without notice.

representation, the first of the three stages of the employment-sponsored green card. Panelists also will provide an overview of the PERM process.

- Dual representation and ethical considerations in the PERM context
- Who is permitted to pay the fees and expenses?
- Considerations in preparing the prevailing wage request
- Preparing for the immigrant petition while drafting the PERM
- Recruitment process, the recruitment report, and the importance of timing
- Making your PERM case “audit proof” while still preparing for an audit
- ETA Form 9089: employer registration, attorney registration, preparing and filing the form

*Carly B. Boder (DL), Milwaukee, WI
Elizabeth Boyda Baker, Detroit, MI
Nicola Ai Ling Prall, Raleigh, NC
Shashikala Warriar, Falls Church, VA*

11:30 am–12:30 pm

Lunch Break

12:30 pm–1:30 pm

The Employment-Based Green Card: EB-1 to EB-5

Panelists will discuss the criteria for the five employment-based preference categories, numerical limits and processing delays, and related concepts. They also will advise on strategies and best practices relating to the often complex and technical employment-based immigration process.

- EB-1: extraordinary ability, outstanding scholars and researchers, multinational executives and managers
- EB-2: exceptional ability and advanced degrees, national interest waivers
- EB-3: professionals, skilled and unskilled workers, and more
- EB-4: special immigrants
- EB-5: immigration through investment

*Paige L. Taylor (DL), Addison, TX
Edward C. Beshara, Maitland, FL
Eli Maroko, Southfield, MI*

1:30 pm–2:00 pm

Networking Break

2:00 pm–3:00 pm

The H-1B and Its Alternatives

(DL) = Discussion Leader

** = invited, not confirmed*

Note: All sessions and events are subject to change without notice.

Panelists will cover core elements of the H-1B classification to establish foundational knowledge of the H-B process and its criteria. They also will cover possible alternatives to the H-1B for those for whom an H-1B may not be available immediately.

- Eligibility criteria and the evolving definition of a “specialty occupation”
- H-1B cap and how to navigate the registration process
- Alternatives to the cap
 - H-1B part-time with cap-exempt employers
 - Other nonimmigrant visas
- Preparing a labor condition application (LCA), postings, and public access file
- Six-year limit and options to extend beyond this limit
- Considerations when an H-1B employee’s position changes

Lucrecia Zagorka Knapp (DL), Rochester, NY

Danny Chi-Keng Chen, Newport Beach, CA

David Garabedian, Toronto, ON

Maria Mejia-Opaciuch, Marysville, OH

3:00 pm–3:30 pm

Networking Break

3:30 pm–4:30 pm

I-9 Compliance for Corporate Clients

Panelists will discuss the operation of the immigration employment eligibility system. Specific topics to be covered include verification of work authorization, policies and procedures for properly completing Form I-9, verifying and retaining the I-9, and employment authorization documentation.

- Form I-9: anatomy of the form, best practices for completing it
- Checklist of documents and information needed for an audit
- What is E-Verify? What are its pros and cons?
- What triggers an I-9 audit?
- What are the risks and penalties for noncompliant employers?

Atessa Chehrizi (DL), San Francisco, CA

Lori T. Chesser, Des Moines, IA

Mary E. Pivec, Woodbridge, VA

4:30 pm–5:00 pm

Networking Break

5:00 pm–6:00 pm

The Newest Cybersecurity Threats to Your Practice

(DL) = Discussion Leader

** = invited, not confirmed*

Note: All sessions and events are subject to change without notice.

Cybersecurity incidents frequently cost a law firm hundreds of thousands of dollars and weeks of downtime these days. What is more, your firm is an ideal target, with loads of personal information of clients, employees, and a thriving business. Our expert panelists will walk you through your ethical obligations and will provide practical advice on how to be sufficiently prepared for the next attack.

- What is new in cybercrime and how should you address it
- Understanding your ethical and professional obligations to protect confidential client and law firm data
- Cybersecurity and privacy policies and protocols
- How to prepare, including cybersecurity insurance
- What to do when there has been a breach
- Claims or damages that a firm could have to deal with

Charity Anastasio (DL), AILA National, Washington, D.C.

David L. Bridges, Vice President, Insurance Offices of America, Atlanta, GA

BUSINESS

Osceola C, Ballroom Level

7:30 am–8:30 am

Prevailing Wage Determinations: DOL Delays, Recruitment Timing, and Form ETA 9141 Completion

Panelists will discuss timing issues with PERM recruitment as they relate to delayed issuance of prevailing wage determinations by DOL. They also will cover drafting and reviewing of the ETA 9141 with alternate requirements, specifying job sites, unanticipated work locations and travel, handling vague questions on the ETA 9141, and strategizing the proposed occupational code.

- How to complete and review the ETA 9141 with alternate requirements
- Handling vague questions on the ETA 9141
- Drafting notice of filing to align with the prevailing wage determination
- When and whether to launch recruitment prior to prevailing wage issuance
- Standard occupational classification (SOC) issues
 - Choosing the proposed occupational code
 - Challenging an occupational code determination

Cora-Ann V. Pestaina (DL), Paramus, NJ

Sarah Bileti, Denver, CO

Robert F. Loughran, Austin, TX

Jonathan David Weiss, Pasadena, CA

8:30 am–9:00 am

Networking Break

(DL) = Discussion Leader

** = invited, not confirmed*

Note: All sessions and events are subject to change without notice.

9:00 am–10:00 am

Mastering the Complexities of PERM

Panelists will provide insight into counseling employers on PERM strategies for their PERM programs, including what constitutes good faith recruitment. They also will discuss drafting job descriptions to ensure consistency across positions (for requirements and preference category), and to ensure the description is tight but not tailored.

- What is good faith recruitment?
- The impact of remote, telecommuting, hybrid, onsite, and peripatetic workers
- Inconsistent employer requirements and PERMs for a current or future position
- Audit triggers, including relationships with owners and combined occupations
- Tips for drafting recruitment, *Delitizer* cases, and employment experience letters

Susanne C. Heubel (DL), DOL Liaison Committee, New York, NY

Alexander Dgebuadze, Woodland Hills, CA

Gus M. Shihab, Columbus, OH

10:00 am–10:30 am

Networking Break

10:30 am–11:30 am

PERM-Based Employment Petitions: EB-2 and EB-3

Panelists will discuss the preparation of the employment-based I-140 petition for EB-2 and EB-3 cases. Topics to be addressed include the pros and cons of concurrent filing versus separate filing of the I-140 and I-485, premium processing strategies, and advising and informing small employers and start-up companies to avoid the “ability to pay” pitfall.

- Best practices for demonstrating qualifications and degree equivalency
- Are special skills required or advisable?
- Documenting experience and special skills, including addressing an RFE
- Ability to pay prevailing wage basics in EB-2 and EB-3 cases
 - Creative “ability to pay” strategies for small companies and start-ups

Natalie Joy Lim Ang (DL), Dublin, CA

Jacob Campbell, Atlanta, GA

Ashley Foret Dees, Lake Charles, LA

Laura Garvin, Miami, FL

11:30 am–12:30 pm

Lunch Break

12:30 pm–1:30 pm

Representing the Exceptional and the Extraordinary: EB-1 and NIW Cases

(DL) = Discussion Leader

** = invited, not confirmed*

Note: All sessions and events are subject to change without notice.

Panelists will cover the preparation of the employment-based I-140 petition for EB-1A and EB-2 national interest waiver (NIW) cases. Topics to be discussed include managing client expectations, recent policy changes for EB-2 NIW cases, common strategic issues, and documentation challenges.

- Documenting eligibility for EB-1 applicants
 - Awards, high salaries, original contributions, critical role, and more
- Utilizing documentation presented in O-1A petitions when transitioning to EB-1
- NIWs: Showing that an occupation is in the “national interest”
- New guidance on NIW petitions for STEM graduates and entrepreneurs
- Case strategies, including multiple I-140s and concurrent filing of I-485s

*Ian David Wagreich (DL), 2023 Annual Conference Program Committee Chair, Chicago, IL
Ksenia Maiorova, 2023 Annual Conference Special Sessions Track Chair, Orlando, FL
Donald L. Mooers, Silver Spring, MD*

1:30 pm–2:00 pm
Networking Break

Sun C, Ballroom Level

2:00 pm–3:00 pm

O-1A and O-1B: Extraordinary Ability and Entertainers

Panelists on this intermediate level session will cover current trends in O-1B and O-1A adjudication, as well as the role of an agent petitioner. They also will provide expert insight and reflections on USCIS’s 2022 policy guidelines for O-1A STEM cases and the usages of comparable evidence. Additionally, panelists will address practical considerations when working with clients to build the best case.

- Standards and criteria for business, athletics, and education (O-1A) vs. arts and motion pictures
- Who may serve as an agent? What are the benefits and pitfalls?
- Recent policy changes
 - New guidance on STEM fields
 - The use of *Kazarian* analysis in O-1A
- Advising clients in the crafting and production of documentation of extraordinary ability
- The attorney’s role in crafting expert testimonials

*Anusree “Anu” Nair (DL), Philadelphia PA
Flavia Lloyd, Irvine, CA
Edith Nazarian, Woodland Hills, CA
David Melik Telfer, Los Angeles, CA*

3:00 pm–3:30 pm

*(DL) = Discussion Leader
* = invited, not confirmed*

Note: All sessions and events are subject to change without notice.

Networking Break

3:30 pm–4:30 pm

P Nonimmigrants: Maybe Not Extraordinary, but Still Got Skills...and Options to Enter the United States

Panelists on this intermediate level session will consider the vast utility of the P classification. Amateur and professional athletes, leagues and individuals, and culturally unique performers will be discussed.

- P-1A classification types
 - Internationally recognized individual athletes
 - COMPETE Act petitions for members of teams and leagues
- Creative uses of the P-1S classification for support personnel
- Options for professional and amateur athletes
- Who can file a petition? Special considerations for agent-filed petitions
- How to define “culturally unique performers and artists”: Interpreting *Matter of Skirball Cultural Center*

Amanda Gupta (DL), Brooklyn, NY

Steven M. Ladik, AILA Past President, Dallas, TX

Catherine L. Haight, Marina del Rey, CA

Andrew Zeltner, Philadelphia, PA

4:30 pm–5:00 pm

Networking Break

5:00 pm–6:00 pm

New Era for EB-5 Investor Visa Program: Impacts of EB-5 Reform Act of 2022

Major programmatic changes resulted from enactment of the EB-5 Reform and Integrity Act of 2022 (RIA) in March 2022. Panelists will discuss recent (and potential) changes to the policy manual to implement RIA, as well as carryover rules for grandfathered cases. They also will address the impacts of Behring litigation and the subsequent court-approved negotiated settlement on new and existing regional center-related forms and filings. Other topics will include:

- Special TEA set-asides for line skipping
- Interplay of immigration and securities law under the RIA
- Preparing source/path of funds under RIA and regulatory requirements
- Review of USCIS policy and guidance since the passage of RIA
- Changes to the “direct” or “standalone” EB-5 investor program

Jennifer Hermansky (DL), AILA EB-5 Investors Committee Vice Chair, Philadelphia, PA

Bernard P. Wolfsdorf, AILA Past President, Santa Monica, CA

Michele A. Franchett, Los Angeles, CA

(DL) = Discussion Leader

** = invited, not confirmed*

Note: All sessions and events are subject to change without notice.

Carolyn S. Lee, Ithaca, NY

FAMILY and HUMANITARIAN

Coastal A, Ballroom Level

7:30 am–8:30 am

Dual Representation of Spouses and Ethical Pitfalls (ETHICS)

Panelists will examine common scenarios that play out when an attorney represents both spouses in an immigration case. Topics to be discussed include when spouses separate, divorce, or engage in domestic violence. Panelists also will address the application of ABA Model Rules 1.7 and 1.9.

- Key clauses to have in your dual representation agreement
- Conversations with clients, before and after the conflict
- Handling a separation or divorce ethically
- Dealing with domestic violence allegations
- Ethically reengaging with returning clients

Miki Kawashima Matrician (DL), Ethics Committee, Boston, MA

Kenneth Craig Dobson, AILA Lawyer Well-Being Committee Vice Chair, New York, NY

Cyrus Mehta, Ethics Committee Vice Chair, Law Journal Editorial Board Chair, New York, NY

Stanley P. Walker, Fort Walton Beach, FL

8:30 am–9:00 am

Networking Break

9:00 am–10:00 am

Affidavits of Support: Best Practices and Public Charge Issues

Form I-864 is legally enforceable against the sponsor in a family-based immigrant visa (IV) case with onerous ongoing obligations. Panelists will unpack who is required to file the I-864, the appropriate version of the form, and types and quality of supporting documentation. They also will discuss “household,” “domicile,” “income,” and other terms of art, as well as tips on documenting financial assets and income to avoid public charge issues.

- I-864 issues: joint sponsors, intending immigrants’ income, proving income for independent contractors, I-864EZ, and self-sponsors
- When to file Form I-134
- 40 quarters accrued: When can you use this for exemption?
- Timing and sources of qualifying income and assets calculation
- Making sure the sponsor or joint sponsor understand the contractual obligation to the government under the I-864

(DL) = Discussion Leader

** = invited, not confirmed*

Note: All sessions and events are subject to change without notice.

10:00 am–10:30 am

Networking Break

10:30 am–11:30 am

Post-Denial Options for Family-Based Petitions

Forum or venue, judicial review, filing fees, processing times, paper records versus calling witnesses, and other factors weigh into choosing how to pursue relief for clients following an unfavorable outcome at USCIS. Panelists will help attendees evaluate where and how best to advocate for the overcoming of a USCIS denial.

- Strategic considerations: refiling, reopening, and appealing denials
- Exhaustion of administrative remedies: Is it required before federal court?
- Jurisdictional and factual issues in the context of discretionary relief
- Best practices for appealing I-130 denials to the BIA

Gregory Romanovsky (DL), Boston, MA

Joshua Altman, San Diego, CA

Stefanie Fisher-Pinkert, Boston, MA

11:30 am–12:30 pm

Lunch Break

12:30 pm–1:30 pm

SIJ: Affirmative and Defensive I-360 Filings

It is imperative for Special Immigrant Juvenile (SIJ) classification practitioners to understand the interplay of state courts and orders, immigration options, and filings. Also important to know are the various benefits involved, including deferred action, work authorization, and relief from removal, among others. Panelists will explore the nuances of filing Form I-360 and adjustments while recognizing the role of state courts in the process. They also will identify and discuss the essential elements of custody orders.

- Eligibility, affirmative filings, and local office interviews
- RFE and NOID trends
- State court developments
- Unaccompanied minors and SIJs in removal proceedings
- Visa availability requirements
- Utilizing SIJs for Afghans and Ukrainians

Derrick Hensley (DL), Hillsborough, NC

Adriana M. Dinis, St. Petersburg FL

Kathleen Elizabeth Irish, Kansas City, MO

Tracie L. Morgan, Atlanta, GA

1:30 pm–2:00 pm

(DL) = Discussion Leader

** = invited, not confirmed*

Note: All sessions and events are subject to change without notice.

Networking Break

2:00 pm–3:00 pm

Challenges in Derivative Refugee/Asylum Status Applications

Congratulations! Your client won asylum or received refugee status. The next step may be to help that client's potential derivative family members. Panelists will analyze who qualifies, timelines, deadlines, how to waive the two-year deadline, ethical quandaries when representing multiple family members, and related issues. Attendees will leave the panel knowing strategies and best practices for successful I-730s filings.

- Understanding the forms: Filing the I-730 and/or I-590 with best evidence
- When (and when not) to include a derivative on asylum applications
- How do to deal with after-acquired relatives and waive the two-year filing deadline
- Best practices in applying for I-730's for previously omitted derivatives
- Creating the record and preparing clients for interview

Lindsey Wilkes (DL), Washington, DC

Robin Nice, Boston MA

Katherine A. Reynolds, Greensboro, NC

3:00 pm–3:30 pm

Networking Break

3:30 pm–4:30 pm

Avoiding Surprises at Interviews: Prior Orders, Convictions, and Other Secrets

Due diligence in representing clients involves gathering up-front information for the client's benefit and as part of the attorney's duty of candor to the tribunal. Creating a relationship of communication and trust is the best way to get the most information from the client. Panelists will discuss leveraging the client first, and alternative sources second, to minimize the chances of being blindsided by surprises and avoid representing a client in legal peril due to surprises that should not have been missed.

- Pre-filing and post-filing diligence: criminal records, social media, FDNS, third-party sources
- Preparation of clients for difficult interviews, including *Stokes* interviews and testimony under oath
- Being prepared for derogatory information coming to light, apprehensions, and other worst-case scenarios at interview

Sonya Peterkin (DL), Clermont, FL

Richard Hanus, Chicago, IL

Jaime Winthuysen Aparisi, Silver Spring, MD

(DL) = Discussion Leader

** = invited, not confirmed*

Note: All sessions and events are subject to change without notice.

4:30 pm–5:00 pm
Networking Break

5:00 pm–6:00 pm
Managing Moving Parts in Family-Based Cases: Priority Dates, Interfiling, Automatic Conversions, CSPA

Changed circumstances are integral to representing a client, particularly in light of current lengthy adjudication times. Panelists will focus on changes that result from family case processing, including dynamics of evolving family relationships (particularly marriage and its termination), children and their age, employment sponsorship, and Visa Bulletin developments.

- Evaluating and advising on immigrant visa preference category impact
- Automatic conversion and retaining preference category
- Migrating employment-based petitions to family-based petitions
- Child Status Protection Act (CSPA) protections in the face of adjudication delays
- Lawful permanent resident (LPR) adjustment trends and prospects

Elizabeth Rompf Bruen (DL), AILA Board of Governors, Chicago, IL

Flomy Javier Diza, San Francisco, CA

Ursula Trimming, Los Angeles, CA

LITIGATION and REMOVAL PROCEEDINGS

Osceola A, Ballroom Level

7:30 am–8:30 am

Litigating before the BIA: From Filing a Notice of Appeal to Decisions and Motions

Winning in immigration court has become increasingly difficult in recent years. It is important to know, therefore, that the fight to obtain relief for your client doesn't have to end at that point. Panelists will discuss the mechanics of how to appeal to the BIA and how to prevent an adverse decision from becoming final.

- Mechanics of appeals to the BIA
 - Deadlines, notices of appeal, identifying the type of relief sought, briefing, standards of review
- Motion practice before the BIA
 - Motions to reopen, motions to reconsider, motions to remand, motions for stay of removal, administrative closure
- Preserving an administrative record for optimal litigation positioning in federal court

Roberto Blum (DL), Houston, TX

Leah LaVerne Chavarria, San Diego, CA

*Kathleen Kersh, AILA Federal Court Litigation Section Steering Committee Vice Chair,
Dayton, OH*

(DL) = Discussion Leader

** = invited, not confirmed*

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8:30 am–9:00 am

Networking Break

9:00 am–10:00 am

Filing a Petition for Review and Beyond: Battling in Circuit Courts

When the BIA fails to provide the relief sought, filing appeals with the federal circuit courts of appeals is the next step. Panelists will advise on key strategies for drafting the petition for review, motions for stays of removal, evaluating and addressing a client with a troublesome administrative record, and using subsequent case law developments to your advantage when you have lost at the BIA.

- Federal court appeals
 - Petitions for review (PFR), motions for a stay of removal, briefings, oral arguments
- Holding a PFR in abeyance and other collateral relief
- Requesting mediation and negotiating with OIL
- What to do when DHS bypasses the BIA
- Reinstatement, administrative removal, and visa waiver overstay

Mark A. Prada (DL), Miami, FL

Ira J. Kurzban, AILA Past President/AILA Author, Kurzban's Immigration Law Sourcebook, 18th ed., Coral Gables, FL

David Stoller, Orlando, FL

10:00 am–10:30 am

Networking Break

10:30 am–11:30 am

Putting on the Gloves: Preparing for Federal District Court Litigation

Filing your first case in federal district court can be intimidating. From jurisdictional statutes to the mechanics of filing and service of process, there is much to learn. Panelists will discuss the types of cases that can be litigated, and they will address the basics of federal court litigation and communications with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the district. They also will address setting realistic expectations with clients and co-counsel.

- Applying for admission to district court, CM/ECF login
- Identifying federal statutes for jurisdiction and parties
- Pro hoc vice admissions
- Drafting the court cover sheet, complaint, and memorandum of law, with local rules and FRCP in mind
- Serving the defendants and U.S. Attorney's Office
- Timelines and filing deadlines
- Making the government pay: Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA)

(DL) = Discussion Leader

** = invited, not confirmed*

Note: All sessions and events are subject to change without notice.

Jesse Matthew Bless (DL), Georgetown, MA
H. Ronald Klasko, AILA Past President, Philadelphia, PA
Brian Scott Green, Littleton, CO

11:30 am–12:30 pm

Lunch Break

12:30 pm–1:30 pm

Pursuing Multiple Forms of Relief While Simultaneously Litigating before EOIR

Panelists will discuss seeking multiple forms relief before USCIS, DOS, DOL, state courts, or local law enforcement while simultaneously pursuing relief before EOIR. They also will advise on how to avoid frivolous findings on asylum claims or negative findings by the court.

- Maintaining simultaneous SIJS prerequisite state court proceedings, filing Form I-360, and awaiting a visa number with a pending asylum before the court, and a client not wanting to lose access to EAD
- Securing U cert, pending U petition, awaiting availability for a U visa
- Asylum claim that is on the way to the BIA, clients who fear losing EAD
- Keeping non-frivolous asylum claims open while pursuing employment visas
- Keeping IV application open and preserving derivatives' status

Christina Heakyung Lee (DL), Oakland, CA
Zeena Barazanji, Chicago, IL
Johanna E. Kelley, Fairfax Station, VA
Rosina Carmelina Stambaugh, York, PA

1:30 pm–2:00 pm

Networking Break

Osceola C, Ballroom Level

2:00 pm–3:00 pm

The Changing Face of Immigrant Rights Litigation Post-Aleman-Gonzales

Panelists will focus on using class action lawsuits to challenge statutes and agency interpretations. Panelists also will discuss recent court decisions and offer creative strategies to circumvent limitations on injunctive relief and the ability of noncitizens to pursue their rights.

- Overview of relevant case law
- *Garland v. Aleman Gonzales* and the practical consequences and precedent
- Practice tips to preserve relief
- Role of non-litigation strategies
- Multi-plaintiff or organizational plaintiff lawsuits as an alternative to class actions

Rebecca Miriam Cassler (DL), Fort Worth, TX

(DL) = Discussion Leader

** = invited, not confirmed*

Note: All sessions and events are subject to change without notice.

Matt Adams, Seattle, WA

Melissa Crow, North Potomac, MD

*Kate Melloy Goettel, Legal Director of Litigation, American Immigration Council,
Washington, D.C.*

3:00 pm–3:30 pm

Networking Break

3:30 pm–4:30 pm

Mandamus Actions Against Immigration Agencies

A mandamus action is a lawsuit filed in federal district court, complaining that your client's case is suffering an unreasonable delay, or that action on it has been unlawfully withheld. Panelists will discuss:

- What scenarios justify a filing of a writ?
- Properly preparing the case record and client for a mandamus action
 - What other forms of resolution should have been exhausted already?
- Scope of review differences between USCIS and DOS
- How to file and serve the complaint
- Seeking EAJA fees

Kevin A. Raica (DL), Chicago, IL

Charles H. Kuck, AILA Past President, Atlanta, GA

Enes Hajdarpasic, Elmwood Park, NJ

Jennifer Coberly, AILA Business Immigration Litigation Attorney, Washington, D.C.

Leslie K. Dellon, Senior Attorney, American Immigration Council, Washington D.C.

4:30 pm–5:00 pm

Networking Break

5:00 pm–6:00 pm

Litigation Skills for Family Immigration Practitioners

Enough waiting already! Our experts will present successful litigation tips and strategies for building the record during USCIS interviews, arguing the burden of proof has been met, and showing the application is ripe for adjudication. The panelists will discuss when to know and how to take the case to federal court or the BIA when other means to pressure USCIS to act are exhausted.

- When to stop waiting and go to federal court
- Seeking a remedy: BIA, AAO, and/or federal court
- Preserving and building the record for litigation
- Zealous advocacy at interviews and in immigration and court proceedings

Alicia J. Triche (DL), Memphis, TN

(DL) = Discussion Leader

** = invited, not confirmed*

Note: All sessions and events are subject to change without notice.

Laura Lichter, AILA Past President, Denver, CO
Jonathan Wasden, Burke, VA

LAW PRACTICE MANAGEMENT

Lafayette, Ballroom Level

7:30 am–8:30 am

Career Progressions and Transitions

Your professional priorities and goals will vary based on the phase of your career you're in. Panelists will discuss what attorneys should focus on at each phase to facilitate growth, advancement, and work-life balance.

- Becoming an invaluable associate with partnership track potential
- Transitioning to the bench, the foreign service, or other government agencies
- Negotiating compensation and career advancement plans
- Transitioning to working on your business rather than *in* your business
- The semi-retired or nomad attorney
- Succession plans, selling and divesting of a law practice before you burn out

Elizabeth L.A. Garvish (DL), AILA University Committee Chair, Atlanta, GA
Ivan Yacub, Woodbridge, VA

8:30 am–9:00 am

Networking Break

9:00 am–10:00 am

Ethical Considerations of Fee Setting (ETHICS)

Setting fees can be challenging in light of extensive backlogs at the immigration agencies and in the courts, frequently changing laws and policies, and changed client circumstances. The experts on this panel will discuss the factors one might consider in setting fees while adhering to the rules of ethics and antitrust laws.

- Thinking about your firm as a business and avoiding the temptation of discounting fees
- Selecting fee types: flat, hourly, and hybrid
 - How trust accounts fit into the picture
- The importance of not locking yourself into perpetual representation
 - Structuring fees for removal and other long-duration cases
- How to talk to colleagues about fees without violating the rules of ethics
- Carveouts and contingencies in flat fee setting
- Carve outs and contingencies in flat fee setting

Charity Anastasio (DL), AILA National, Washington, D.C.
Natalia Polukhtin, Scottsdale, AZ
Arturo R. Rios, St. Petersburg, FL

(DL) = Discussion Leader
** = invited, not confirmed*

Note: All sessions and events are subject to change without notice.

10:00 am–10:30 am
Networking Break

10:30 am–11:30 pm

Using Remote Workers in Your Practice

In the wake of the “Great Resignation” and the COVID-19 pandemic, many offices turned to all-virtual or hybrid service delivery models, relying in whole or in part on remote employees and contractors. Panelists will cover everything you need to know about working with remote employees and contractors while minding your ethical obligations and your bottom line.

- Ethical considerations of virtual outsourcing to non-employees
 - Foreign virtual assistants hired through staffing companies
- Training and ethically supervising productive remote workers
- Hardware and software considerations to ensure data security and confidentiality
- Terminating remote workers while protecting your clients and your business
- Tax and employment law implications of hiring remote workers inside and outside the United States

Ruby Lichte Powers (DL), AILA Author, Build and Manage Your Successful Immigration Law Practice (Without Losing Your Mind), Houston, TX

Stephanie Scarborough, Jacksonville, FL

Patrick F. Valdez, Inglewood, CA

11:30 am–12:30 pm

Lunch Break

12:30 pm–1:30 pm

Marketing Your Practice on Social Media

Social media has transformed the legal marketing landscape, but many practitioners feel out touch with these new trends and are overwhelmed by the constant pressure of having to produce content. Our panel of experts, each of whom has leveraged social media to grow their practice, will discuss their success stories and common pitfalls to avoid.

- Selecting the best social media platform to connect with your target audience
- Using social media to market niche practices
- Discovering your social media personality
 - Using social media successfully even if you are not comfortable with TikTok dances and trending content
- Likes, comments, and going viral: How to read social media analytics and measure your marketing success

Fiona Marie McEntee (DL), Media Advocacy Committee, Chicago, IL

Agueda Chavez, Clermont, FL

(DL) = Discussion Leader

** = invited, not confirmed*

Note: All sessions and events are subject to change without notice.

*John Q. Khosravi, Los Angeles, CA
Marina Shepelsky, Brooklyn, NY*

1:30 pm–2:00 pm
Networking Break

2:00 pm–3:00 pm

Using Traditional and Social Media to Lift Your Profile and Advocate for Your Clients

The political climate is constantly changing, and the impact of these changes on immigration law means that practitioners must always search for new and better ways to represent their clients and be successful. Working with reporters, getting your name in print, and amplifying your work on social media are just some of the ways to do this. Panelists will advise on how to work with traditional media and build your online presence through social media platforms to raise your profile and better advocate for your clients.

- How does traditional and social media engagement help you?
- Using the press to your advantage
 - How does AILA work with reporters?
 - How do you engage with reporters and get their attention?
 - Leveraging your expertise through opinion pieces
 - What resources does AILA have to make this easy?
- How can you leverage video?
- What are the differences in how platforms treat video?

*Belle Woods (DL), AILA Senior Associate Director of Communications, Washington D.C.
Allen Orr, AILA Past President, Washington D.C.
John Gihon, Altamonte Springs, FL
Christopher M. Richardson, Greenville, SC*

3:00 pm–3:30 pm
Networking Break

3:30 pm–4:30 pm

The Buck Stops Here: Setting Expectations Through Effective Communication

Do you feel like you spend so much time on the phone with clients that you never have time to do actual case work? Tired of the same questions over and over? Unsure of how to set boundaries? The experts on this panel will provide tips on effective communications policies and procedures that reduce stress and frustration for both you and your client.

- Creating an effective communications policy and sticking to it
- Automating communications through the use of case management system workflows
- Should you text with your clients? Managing response time expectations through policies and advance notices
- How to use your “Out of Office” responder effectively

*(DL) = Discussion Leader
* = invited, not confirmed*

Note: All sessions and events are subject to change without notice.

- Setting up “Legal Triage”: Routing communications to staff based on the nature of the inquiry
- Managing excessive communications while complying with ethical obligations

Charlotte Slocombe (DL), London, UK

Kirby G. Joseph, Aurora, CO

Beata Leja, Chicago, IL

Ron Matten, West Hollywood, CA

4:30 pm–5:00 pm

Networking Break

5:00 pm–6:00 pm

Representing Military Families in Adjustment, Consular Processing, and Naturalization

USCIS provides a host of unique benefits to past and present service members and their families.

Panelists will identify the naturalization benefits, protections for family members, hardship issues, and survivor benefits available to this unique and extraordinary group. They also will discuss ways to maximize these protections and benefits.

- Determining whether to apply for parole-in-place or request deferred action
 - What to do when the relative is in removal proceedings or has a prior removal order
- Effectively using the presumption of extreme hardship when applying for an inadmissibility waiver or canceling removal
- Requirements for naturalization of service members and their families
- Survivor benefits

Matthew G. Holt (DL), San Diego, CA

*Margaret Deborah Stock, AILA Author, Immigration Law & the Military, 3rd ed.,
Anchorage, AK*

Stella Shimamoto, AILA Military Committee Chair, Honolulu, HI

SPECIAL SESSIONS

Sun C, Ballroom Level

7:30 am–8:30 am

Cultural Competency to Eliminate Bias (BIAS)

Unlike their colleagues in other areas of law, immigration attorneys are required to have the ability to understand and interact effectively with many cultures across the globe in order to obtain success for their clients. These cultures have different metrics for success and self-care, however, so how do we navigate them? Further, how do practitioners deal successfully with

(DL) = Discussion Leader

** = invited, not confirmed*

Note: All sessions and events are subject to change without notice.

clients from various backgrounds and cultures while also taking everyone's mental health into account?

- Cultural competence: Why is this skill set critical for immigration attorneys?
- Dealing with different cultural perspectives
 - What approaches are best for both you and your clients?
- Are the client's cultural expectations of service and results in line with yours?
- Effective communication strategies
 - Is your client keeping you fully informed about their case?
 - How will the government receive their story?

Dahlia A. Walker-Huntington (DL), Plantation, FL

Christine J. Alden, Miami, FL

Alexandra Oprea, Kearny, NJ

8:30 am–9:00 am

Networking Break

9:00 am–10:00 am

Belonging in Florida: AILA in Action

Featuring invited speakers and representatives from HOPE, NOW, FLIC, NAACP, ADL, AAPI, FANM and the American Business Immigration Coalition.

10:00 am–10:30 am

Networking Break

10:30 am–11:30 am

Ethically Building and Keeping a Book of Clients: Laying the Framework with Family-Based Clients (ETHICS)

Developing networks of clients in a family-based immigration practice starts with building relationships with individual clients. Panelists will cover how to lay a framework with new clients. The discussion will range from maintaining conditional legal permanent residence, to I-751 removal of conditions, to naturalization. They also will share practice strategies that have been proven to work, such that clients not only return for representation on their subsequent matters, they also refer their relatives and friends to you. Finally, panelists will introduce additional practice tools to help you engage clients profitably and ethically.

- Initial consultations, building trust, and accepting new cases
- Cultivating, maintaining, and firing long-term clients
- Retainer agreements and reasonable fees for long-standing clients
- Client file retention requirements
- Conflict of interest waiver checks

(DL) = Discussion Leader

** = invited, not confirmed*

Note: All sessions and events are subject to change without notice.

- Marketing practices to existing and past clients

David N. Simmons (DL), Englewood, CO

Douglas R. Penn, Stamford, CT

Petula Natasha McShiras, AILA Colorado Chapter Chair, Greenwood Village, CO

11:30 am–12:30 pm

Lunch Break

12:30 pm–1:30 pm

Knock, Knock: When Law Enforcement Visits Immigrants

Every immigration attorney eventually gets the dreaded call: “An agent came to my house and wanted to talk to me. . .” or “When I was coming back into the United States, CBP held me and asked me questions about . . .”. How your client finishes that sentence is a matter of client counseling and control. What you want to hear is, “I told the agent to call you.” Unfortunately, far too often, that is not what your client says. How you advise your client, both before this conversation happens and after, can have a tremendous impact on their immigration status; failure to do so at all may have criminal consequences!

- Counseling your client on how to respond to law enforcement agents
 - At home, at work, at the border, and at an embassy
- What to do when a client has already spoken with a law enforcement agent without an attorney
- When should your client talk with law enforcement?
 - Pros and cons
 - Success and horror stories

Jay Gairson (DL), Federal Court Litigation Section Steering Committee, Seattle, WA

Olsa Alikaj-Cano, AILA Texas Chapter Chair, Houston, TX

Jeremy Lasnetski, Jacksonville, FL

1:30 pm–2:00 pm

Networking Break

2:00 pm–3:00pm

How to Take Care of Your Brain

Our brain is our strongest asset as an attorney. It is critical, therefore, that we protect and strengthen our brains to be the best version of ourselves in both our professional and personal lives. Panelists will discuss a variety of things we can do to keep our brains healthy, as well as how we can incorporate these steps into our routines.

- The importance of quality sleep

(DL) = Discussion Leader

** = invited, not confirmed*

Note: All sessions and events are subject to change without notice.

- What does it mean to sleep well?
- How to identify your best sleep schedule
- Mental acuity exercises to maintain performance and stave off brain fog
- Eating the best foods to boost your brain and memory
- Unconscious Bias and the importance of self-awareness
- Finding the right kind of support group
- Restorative activities: exercise, yoga, meditation, taking time to do nothing at all

Rex Chen (DL), Federal Court Litigation Section Steering Committee, New York, NY

Jennifer Michelle Howard, Aurora, CO

Margaret Ellen Nocero, Miami, FL

Esperanza Franco, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Canary Islands

3:00 pm–3:30 pm

Networking Break

BUSINESS WORKSHOPS

Osceola A, Ballroom Level

3:30 pm–4:30pm

Workshop: Deep Dive into PERM Issues

Panelists will discuss advanced issues relating to PERM / green card strategies and provide drafting samples for the issues that arise on the PERM ETA-9089. Other topics to be discussed include strategies for PERM filings with nonimmigrant max outs, lengthy prevailing wage determination processing times, the impact of layoffs and corporate mergers and acquisitions, and changes in the work location in the middle of the PERM process.

- What is considered “normal to the occupation?”
- Supervised recruitment
- Can after-acquired experience with the employer be used for the PERM?
- Layoffs, corporate mergers, and acquisitions
- Strategies for H-1B/L-1 maxing out before PERM certification
- Ability-to-Pay
 - Required initial evidence and supplementary documentation
 - Concerns with consolidated financials and tax return issues

Sarah K. Peterson (DL), USCIS Case Assistance Committee, Minneapolis, MN

Melany Savitt, Portland, OR

Tejas N. Shah, Chicago, IL

4:30 pm–5:00 pm

Networking Break

(DL) = Discussion Leader

** = invited, not confirmed*

Note: All sessions and events are subject to change without notice.

5:00 pm–6:00 pm

Workshop: Deep Dive into Responding to L-1 RFEs

Panelists on this advanced, interactive workshop will discuss and advise on best practices in developing responses to the latest RFEs in L-1 petitions.

- Specialized and advanced knowledge: best practices, supporting documentation strategies
- Executives and managers: Can one be both? Functional manager latest trends
- New office and small business Ls: special considerations
- Source and amount of compensation
- Mobile, remote, and intermittent workers; workers outside the United States

Elise A. Fialkowski (DL), Philadelphia PA

Ramon Carrion, Spring Hill, FL

Julie T. Emerick, Chicago, IL

SATURDAY TRAININGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

7:00 am–12:00 pm

Registration

7:00 am–3:30 pm

Exhibit Hall Hours

Yoga

7:00 am–8:00 am

Coquina Lawn, Exhibit Hall Level (outside)

Board of Governors

12:00 pm–12:30 pm

Suwannee 2-4, Mezzanine Level

8:00 pm–11:00 pm

AILA Saturday Night Party at the House of Blues in Disney Springs

This year's conference will conclude with a lively celebration at the House of Blues in Disney Springs. Join us for an evening of food, drinks, music and more! Shuttles will be provided from the Gaylord Palms and conference Disney Resort hotels. See the Special Events and Shuttle sections of the AC23 App for more details.

(DL) = Discussion Leader

** = invited, not confirmed*

Note: All sessions and events are subject to change without notice.