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**AILA TEXAS, OKLAHOMA, NEW MEXICO CHAPTER
SPRING CONFERENCE 2015
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO**

Olsa Alikaj-Cano

Olsa Alikaj-Cano, a Senior Attorney and Board Certified in Immigration and Nationality Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, joined the litigation team of Foster LLP, in its Houston office in 2010. She is a graduate of the University of Houston Law Center, where she was fortunate to practice as an Immigration Clinic Student Attorney under the direction of the late Professor and Immigration Judge Joseph Vail. She is an active member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, and she currently serves as the AILA Texas Chapter New Members Division Liaison. She focuses primarily on cases involving federal litigation as well as cases with removal and deportation issues before the Executive Office of Immigration Review. She has been admitted to practice by the U.S. Supreme Court, the State Bar of Texas, U.S. District Court Southern District of Texas, and the Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. She is a member of the Pro-Bono College of the State Bar of Texas and is proud of her pro-bono work with the Tahirih Justice Center and other non-profit organizations involved in helping immigrants. She is a member of the Houston Area Council on Human Trafficking, and was invited by the Mayor of Houston to join the Mayor's Human Trafficking Task Force.

Simon Azar-Farr offices in San Antonio, Texas.

He is a specialist in immigration law and federal criminal defense. Below is a listing of some of his more notable cases. His published articles can be found in the respective journals or on his firm's website.

Precedent Cases (not a complete list)

United States v. Hemphill, 748 F.3d 666 (5th Cir. 2014)

United States v. Iqbal, 684 F.3d 507 (5th Cir. 2012)

Martinez-Garcia v. Thaler, 389 Fed Appx. 396 (5th Cir. 2010), *cert denied* 131 S. Ct. 1604 (2011)
De Rodriguez v. Holder, 585 F.3d 227 (5th Cir. 2009)
Arguelles-Olivares v. Mukasey, 526 F.3d 171 (5th Cir. 2008), *cert denied* 2009 U.S. LEXIS 8729 (2009)
United States v. Valles-Zamora, 252 Fed. Appx. 701 (5th Cir. 2008), *cert. denied* 128 S. Ct. 1455 (2009)
Toledo-Hernandez v. Mukasey, 402 F. Supp. 780 (W. Dist. TX 2005), 521 F.3d 332 (5th Cir. 2008)
Arce-Vences v. Mukasey, 512 F.3d 167 (5th Cir. 2007)
Hernandez-Castillo v. Moore, 436 F.3d 516 (5th Cir. 2006), *cert. denied* 2006 U.S. LEXIS (2006)
Long v. Gonzales, 420 F.3d 516 (5th Cir. 2005)
De Jesus v. INS, 312 F.3d 155 (5th Cir. 2002)
Gonzalez-Torres v. INS, 213 F.3d 899 (5th Cir. 2000)
Requena-Rodriguez v. Pasquarell, 190 F.3d 299 (5th Cir. 1999)
Moosa v. INS, 171 F.3d 994 (5th Cir. 1999)
Ibrik v. INS, 108 F.3d 596 (5th Cir. 1997)
Rodriguez-Gutierrez v. INS, 59 F.3d 504 (5th Cir. 1995)
Refahiyat v. United States Dep't of Justice, 29 F.3d 553 (10th Cir. 1994)
Medina v. INS, 993 F.2d 499 (5th Cir. 1993), *rehg denied*, 1 F.3d 312 (5th Cir. 1993)
Rivas-Martinez v. INS, 997 F.2d 1143 (5th Cir. 1993)
Okeke v. Pasquarell, 80 F. Supp. 2d 635 (W.D. Tex. Dist 2000)

Publications

Simon M. Azar-Farr, *A Synopsis of the Rules of Evidence in Immigration Removal Proceedings*, Bender's Immigration Bulletin, Vol. 19, No. 1 (January 1, 2014)
Simon M. Azar-Farr, *Admissibility of PSRs in Removal Proceedings*, Interpreter Releases, Vol. 90, No. 26 (July 15, 2013)
Simon M. Azar-Farr, *The Texas Speedy Trial Act—Texas Law*, San Antonio Lawyer, 14-19 (May-June 2010)
Simon M. Azar-Farr, *Material Witness Detention in the Federal Courts: A Primer*, San Antonio Lawyer, 12-17 (July-August 2009)
Simon M. Azar-Farr, *The Right to Effect a Citizen's Arrest Under Texas Law*, San Antonio Lawyer, 8-12 (May-June 2008)
Simon M. Azar-Farr, *The Definition of "Conviction" for Immigration Purposes: The Fifth Circuit Versus Everyone Else*, 12 Bender's Bulletin 1347-55 (Oct. 1, 2007)
Simon M. Azar-Farr, *Procedural Challenges to Removal Proceedings, 1999-2000 Immigration and Nationality Law Handbook*, Vol. 2, P. 350 (June 1999)
Simon M. Azar-Farr, *An Immaculately Foggy Case: Matter of Magallanes-Garcia Examined*, Interpreter Releases, Vol. 75, No. 39 (October 9, 1998)
Simon M. Azar-Farr, *The Current State of the Law in the Fifth Circuit Relating to the "Right" to Judicial Review of Certain Immigration Appeals*, Bender's Immigration Bulletin, Vol. 2, No. 24 (December 15, 1997)

Catherine O. Brown practices immigration and naturalization law exclusively with a particular focus on family and business-related immigration. She also assists employers with I-9 compliance and audit procedures. She has been a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) and American Immigration Lawyers Association Colorado Chapter (AILA Colorado) since 2002. She has been a member of the Colorado Bar Association, since 2001. She has served as Media Advocacy Chair, and as Chair of the DMV Liaison for AILA Colorado. She served as Chair of the Immigration Section of the CBA in 2010-11 and currently serves on the Solo/Small Firm Executive Committee for the CBA. She authored “Family-Sponsored Immigration” for the Immigration Law for the Colorado Practitioner, 1st Edition 2011. She volunteers currently for El Comite and Safehouse Boulder in Boulder county. She has spoken on various topics, related to family and business immigration and refugee/asylee law. She obtained her Bachelor’s Degree from the University of Notre Dame, her Masters in Science from the London School of Economics and Political Science, and her Juris Doctor from the University of Denver College of Law.

Susan Bond



Susan Bond has been practicing immigration law since 1999 with a focus on employment-based immigration and corporate compliance. Since 1999, she has successfully represented employers in numerous industries, including engineering, IT/software development, telecommunications, healthcare, aerospace and aeronautics, marketing, research & development, medical technologies, medical research, and pharmaceuticals.

In addition to her work on behalf of private-sector employers, Susan also works with universities, successfully securing visas and permanent residency in the U.S. for professors, scientists, and researchers employed in various academic departments, including chemistry, pharmacology, biology, engineering, mathematics, physics, as well as grain science and veterinary science.

She is admitted to practice in Texas, Missouri and Kansas, as well as the United States District Court, Western Missouri and is a member of the State Bar of Texas, Dallas Bar Association, American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), and the Federal Court Litigation Section of AILA. Susan currently serves on the AILA National Membership Committee and serves as Council Member for Employment-Based Immigration for the State Bar of Texas, Immigration & Nationality Section. She is a frequent speaker on employment-based immigration topics. www.bondimmigrationlaw.com

Lance Curtright, a partner with De Mott, McChesney, Curtright, Armendariz, LLP, has practiced immigration law since 2001. He is Board Certified in Immigration and Nationality Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. Mr. Curtright has successfully represented hundreds of clients in removal proceedings. His successes include published decisions in *Amrollah v. Napolitano*, 710 F.3d 568 (5th Cir. 2013); and *Matter of Lamus*, 25 I&N Dec. 61 (BIA 2009). See also *Mortera-Cruz v. Gonzales*, 409 F.3d 246 (5th Cir. 2005). He has published articles about immigration law in several law magazines and is a frequent speaker at immigration law conferences. He serves as the Immigration Customs and Enforcement liaison for the San Antonio district. Mr. Curtright is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, the Federal Bar Association, and the San Antonio Bar Association. Mr. Curtright is admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, the Western District of Texas, the Southern District of Texas, the Northern District of Texas and all Texas State courts.

Leslie K. Dellon is the Business Litigation Fellow at the American Immigration Council. Contact her if you have a case that falls within the Council's *Screening Criteria for Co-Counseling Business Cases* (AILA Doc. No. 15012999). She has more than 20 years of experience advising small to multinational businesses about immigration strategies. In addition to her extensive business immigration law experience, she previously handled general commercial and corporate matters, including civil litigation. Since August 2011, she has represented clients in her own firm, L. Dellon Immigration Law, LLC. She also has experience as a Trial Attorney in the Federal Programs Branch, Civil Division, U.S. Department of Justice. She is a past Chair of the AILA Washington DC Chapter and has served on AILA National and DC Chapter Committees. She has a J.D. from the George Washington University Law School.

Gary Frost received his Bachelor's Degree from the University of North Texas in 1990, and his Juris Doctor from the University of Tulsa in 1995. While at the University of Tulsa, he was a three year member of the school's trial team, president of the Board of Advocates, production editor for the Tulsa Law Review and had an article published in the Tulsa Law Review. He is licensed to practice in Texas and is admitted to practice in the US District Court for the Northern District of Texas. He is also an active member of the American Immigration Lawyer Association. He served as the AILA liaison to the Dallas Immigration Court for five years. Mr. Frost's broad legal practice experience has included practice in private law firms as well as in-house counsel positions with both public and private corporations. As a result, he brings a wide range of knowledge and experience to the immigration practice at Chavez & Valko. His immigration practice has included detention and removal, federal court litigation, nonimmigrant and immigrant visas, adjustment of status, and naturalization. Among other clients, Gary had counseled and represented Grammy-nominated singer and NHRA race car driver.

John Wheat Gibson, Sr., John Wheat Gibson, P.C. (Dallas)

Gibson is a solo attorney, practicing immigration litigation. He began his legal career at Proyecto Adelante, providing legal counsel to refugees from El Salvador. His practice includes removal defense and federal court litigation, especially involving asylum, and problematic naturalization, consular processing, adjustment, VAWA, and citizenship matters. He has been

active in human rights defense organizations since 1964, and provides pro bono service as a mentor to immigration attorneys, and regarding immigration issues to criminal, and family law attorneys.

Gibson received his B.A. in philosophy and M.A. in journalism from the University of Texas, and his J.D. from Baylor University School of Law. He is admitted to the State Bar of Texas, U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Fifth and 11th Circuits, and the U.S. Supreme Court. He is a member of the National Lawyers Guild, American Immigration Lawyers Association, Kimbell Art Museum, Dallas Shakespeare Society, Oak Cliff Winos, and other community service organizations.

Shelley Hennessee, Law Office of Shelley Hennessee

Ms. Hennessee practices immigration law exclusively, concentrating primarily on deportation defense and family-based immigration. She is board certified in immigration and nationality law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. She has been an AILA conference speaker in the past and has co-authored articles concerning waivers and immigration issues in family practice.

Kirby Gamblin Joseph is the founder of Strategy4Success, a Law Practice Management Consulting group, and provides consulting services to law firms interested in changing the way that they practice law. She is also the managing partner and co-founder of Joseph Law Firm, P.C. with offices in Aurora Colorado, Colorado Springs Colorado and Eagle County Colorado. She is a past chair of the Colorado Chapter of AILA (2006-2007) and has served on AILA National's Law Practice Committee since 2010. Ms. Joseph has been Chair of AILA National's Law Practice Committee from 2011-present. She has been named a "Top Lawyer" in the area of immigration law by Colorado SuperLawyers Magazine.

Avalyn C. Langemeier, a Partner with Foster LLP's Houston office, graduated cum laude from Harvard University and the University of Texas at Austin Law School. She handles a wide variety of employment and compliance-based immigration matters. Her practice includes assisting public and private employers in the management of immigration processes for key personnel. Ms. Langemeier works closely with employers in the healthcare industry, academia and oil industry to prepare and file the necessary petitions and applications on behalf of physicians, nurses, allied health professionals, professors, researchers, administrators and professionals. She also works with religious workers. Ms. Langemeier assists in filing for work visas and for permanent residence based on PERM labor certification applications (basic, special and hybrid) and petitions based on extraordinary ability, being an outstanding researcher or professor or international manager, and national interest waiver petitions. She provides clients her expertise in connection with Form I-9 audits, workforce compliance, J-1 waivers, and H-1B site visits.

Ms. Langemeier is a member of the State Bar of Texas, the State Bar of California, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California, and the Court of Appeals for the Fifth and Ninth Circuits. Ms. Langemeier is also a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, serves on the AILA Health Care Professionals Committee, and continues to serve and has served as liaison for the American Immigration Council's Creative Writing Contest for Fifth Graders for several years. She is an

invited member of the International Who's Who of Corporate Immigration Lawyers and was nominated for Best Lawyer in Immigration Law. Ms. Langemeier is a frequent speaker on immigration matters, including having spoken at conferences hosted by the Texas State Bar, the AILA Texas Chapter and AILA National, the National Association of Foreign Student Advisors (NAFSA), and universities and healthcare organizations.

Liset M. Lefebvre, Chavez & Valko, LLP (Dallas/Baton Rouge)

Ms. Lefebvre is an attorney with Chavez & Valko and manages the law firm in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. She began her legal career practicing commercial litigation and transitioned into the exclusive practice of immigration and nationality law in 2008. Her practice includes removal defense, family-based immigration, consular issues, and non-immigrant visas. She has been active in advocacy on behalf of vulnerable immigrants in the community. Currently, she provides pro-bono representation to victims of human trafficking through HP Serve, a local non-profit organization, as well as participates in community outreach seminars.

Ms. Lefebvre received her J.D. from the University of Denver, Sturm College of Law. She is admitted to the State Bar of Texas, is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, Texas and Mid-South Chapters, and served as the AILA Dallas Section Co-Coordinator in 2011-2012.

Kate Lincoln-Goldfinch, a native of Austin, joined the law firm of Hines & Leigh in October 2010. She earned both her undergraduate degree and J.D. at the University of Texas. She serves on the boards of the Travis County Women Lawyers Association and the Austin Bar Association Solo and Small Firm Section.

Ms. Lincoln-Goldfinch was the recipient of an Equal Justice Works Fellowship sponsored by Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld in 2008. She completed her fellowship at American Gateways (formerly the Political Asylum Project of Austin), a non-profit organization devoted to securing justice for low-income immigrants in the Central Texas area. Her project served detainees at the T. Don Hutto Residential Center in Taylor, Texas. During her fellowship, Ms. Lincoln-Goldfinch provided representation and rights presentations to the immigrant women and families detained at Hutto. In addition, she served as the pro bono coordinator for American Gateways.

In 2010, Ms. Lincoln-Goldfinch received the Contribution to Minority Community Award from the Travis County Women Lawyers Association. Since the unfortunate resurgence of family detention in 2014, she has served on the pro bono advisory committee for Karnes and Dilley. Her practice includes family-based and humanitarian cases, and removal defense.

Aimee Maldonado is the Supervising Attorney of the Unaccompanied Minors Program at the Cabrini Center for Immigrant Legal Assistance at Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston in Houston, TX. She graduated from South Texas College of Law in 2004 and obtained her B.B.A. from Baylor University where she majored in International Business and Marketing in 2001. Before working at Catholic Charities, Ms. Maldonado had her own practice for five years, which focused on removal proceedings and family-based immigration, as well as family law. As part of her family law practice, the family court regularly appointed her to serve as amicus attorney and attorney ad litem for children in custody and child protective

services cases. Prior to having her own practice, Ms. Maldonado worked in immigration firms in Houston and Dallas.

Rebecca Massiatte, JMO Firm PLLC



Rebecca Massiatte provides personal and dedicated immigration services to a variety of corporations and individuals as well as to non-profit organizations and educational institutions. Rebecca advises corporate clients on a wide variety of immigrant and non-immigrant matters. Rebecca provides support with developing strategies for workforce compliance, assisting with due diligence and other immigration issues arising from mergers and acquisitions and addressing and developing I-9 program practices. Corporate clients benefit from her expertise in developing strategies to enable companies to build effective immigration policies and procedures that support business objectives and employee needs. Rebecca also assists individuals in obtaining visas and in the processing of immediate relative green cards and naturalization.

Before starting her immigration practice, Rebecca served as a judicial law clerk for the San Antonio and Harlingen Immigration Courts (EOIR) through the U.S. Department of Justice, Attorney General's Honors Program. Prior to founding JMO, she practiced at prominent national and regional law firms.

Awards and Recognition

Texas Rising Star in the field of Immigration by Texas Monthly magazine (2009-2014)
Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business (2013-2014)
International Who's Who of Corporate Immigration Lawyers (2014)

Education and Admissions

Rebecca graduated with honors from Texas State University and holds a master's degree in social work from Washington University in St. Louis. She earned her juris doctorate degree from Washington University School of Law. During her law school tenure, she was a founding member of the Global Studies Law Review and earned recognition for her community service work, for which she was named Public Service Law Student of the Year. Rebecca is admitted to practice in Texas and before the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

Memberships and Community Involvement

Rebecca is a member of the State Bar of Texas, American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), Attorneys Serving the Community (Membership Co-Chair 2011-2014), and is a fellow of the Dallas Association of Young Lawyers.

As an active member of the legal community, Rebecca has served in several prestigious industry groups, including as an appointed Member on the State Bar of Texas Laws Relating to Immigration and Nationality Committee (Member, 2008-2010; Vice Chair, 2010-2011; Chair 2011-2014; Advisory Board Member 2014-2015).

Rebecca has served in AILA in various capacities, including: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service-Texas Service Center Liaison (2009-2011); Verification and Document Liaison (2011-2012); 2012 National Annual Conference Committee (2011-2012); Co-Coordinator for the Dallas, Texas Section of AILA (2011-2014); and Co-Chair Texas/Oklahoma/New Mexico AILA Chapter Spring 2014 Conference (2014).

Rebecca regularly speaks on immigration issues at industry conferences. She also educates business organizations both large and small, providing training on immigration compliance and assisting in the creation of corporate immigration programs and policies.

M. Nicole Morrison

A native of the U.S. and Canada, M. Nicole Morrison is a graduate of the University of Texas School of Law in Austin, Texas, and Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. She has been certified as a specialist in immigration and nationality law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization since 2002 and lives to fight – and beat – DHS, DOL, and DOJ in all kinds of cases. In 2003 she founded the immigration law clinic at Texas Southern University's Thurgood Marshall School of Law and previously taught immigration law to paralegal students as well. Ms. Morrison is a longtime member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) and greatly enjoys writing amusing replies to Message Center questions and occasionally mentoring young attorneys foolhardy enough to pursue a career in immigration law.

In her free time, Ms. Morrison volunteers as the legislative liaison for the Cavalier King Charles Spaniels Club of Greater Houston, Inc., the local American Kennel Club breed club for Cavalier King Charles Spaniels. When she is not painting or needlepointing to reduce her near-constant stress, she also shows Cavaliers (badly) in confirmation and spoils her dogs absolutely rotten. She travels abroad as often as possible and always finds time to make new friends all over the world.

Maggie Murphy



Maggie Murphy is a Partner at Jackson Lewis, LLP in Austin, Texas. She is Board Certified in Immigration & Nationality Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization and is currently serving as the Secretary of the Texas Chapter of AILA. She is also a founding member and Past Chair of the State Bar of Texas Immigration & Nationality Law Section, and she is currently serving on the SBOT Committee on Laws Relating to Immigration and Nationality.

Maggie specializes in complex employment-based immigration cases and has sub-specialties in complicated work visa and permanent residence filings. She also specializes in immigration-related employer compliance issues, including I-9 audits and investigations, E-Verify compliance training and initiatives, and export-control compliance in the work visa context.

Ms. Murphy is a frequent speaker on business-related immigration compliance topics

Anne Ohlrich, Owner of The Ohlrich Law Firm in San Antonio, Texas.

After graduating from St. Mary's University School of Law and being licensed as an attorney in 1998, Anne Ohlrich was commissioned as a Foreign Service Officer with the U.S. Department of State. As a consular officer and diplomat Ms. Ohlrich served in the U.K., Brazil, Washington D.C. and Mexico. Her experience and training encompassed immigration law; human trafficking; counter-narcotics and law enforcement affairs; national security issues; information systems security and the myriad of duties as necessary to fulfill the mission objectives. Ms. Ohlrich has served as both a section and visa chief, and her last post was at the U.S. Consulate in Cd. Juarez, Mexico.

Anne has been a professor at St. Mary's University since August 2005 where she has brought her practical knowledge to the curriculum of the Graduate Dept. of International Relations as well as the Undergraduate IR Dept. and the School of Law. During her tenure she created the student group the Organization for Conflict Diplomacy, founded and directed the Institute for Diplomacy and Strategic Initiatives, and created the Security and Intelligence Program. Anne has developed and taught courses in Diplomacy, The Global War on Terror, Human Trafficking, the Globalization of Crime and Transnational Criminal Organizations, and was commended for her work in September 2011 by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence Centers for Academic Excellence. During this time Anne also founded a local law firm's Immigration

section and focused on H, L, E and TN visas as well as assisting in the creation of two regional centers in Texas.

Anne has presented on panels for the Department of Homeland Security; the President's Peace Commission at St. Mary's University and conferences with UTPA, and has appeared as a source for international law and security on Texas Public Radio and Texas Week with Rick Casey. Anne has also presented on EB-5's at the AILA Spring Conference in New Mexico in 2012, and on H1B alternatives at the AILA Spring Conference in 2013 in Texas.

Anne speaks Spanish & Portuguese and has a working knowledge of French and German.

Sonali Patnaik has practiced Immigration and Nationality Law in Dallas since 2004. She is TBLS Board Certified and has run Patnaik Law Office since 2006. From her first pro-bono asylum case as a law student in Barbara Hines' Immigration clinic at the University of Texas, she has found great satisfaction in this work and the cause of immigrant's rights.

Ruby L. Powers is the founder of Law Office of Ruby L. Powers, P.C. located in Houston, Texas, a three-attorney firm focused on waivers of inadmissibility, asylum, deportation, family- and employment-based petitions. She is Board Certified in Immigration and Nationality Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. She attended the University of Texas and the University of North Carolina School of Law. Powers lived and studied in Mexico, Spain, Belgium, Turkey, and UAE and speaks Spanish and French. She serves as the AILA Texas Chapter Advocacy Co-Chair and on the AILA Law Practice Management Committee. She was recently awarded with Houston Business Journal's 40 Under 40 Award and is currently in the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses program. She is a frequent speaker and author on immigration law and law practice management topics. In 2011-2012, she ran her law firm from Dubai and Turkey for 14 months. Ruby@RubyPowersLaw.com www.RubyPowersLaw.com

L. John Russo

Mr. Russo is a native and a long-time resident of Albuquerque, New Mexico. He received his Bachelor's Degree and then the Law Degree from the University of New Mexico respectively in 1972, and 1977. He has also received the American Jurisprudence book awards in Federal Jurisdiction, Equity and Injunctions, and Patent Law.

Mr. Russo was a designated Naturalization Examiner and then a staff attorney for the legacy U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service in El Paso Texas from 1980-1983. He was part of the USINS Cuban Boat Fine Project in Miami Florida, and he also completed basic training at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center at Glynco, Georgia in 1983. Mr. Russo attended the Center for Foreign Students at the University of Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico, regarding Spanish language education in 1989. Mr. Russo is a member of the New Mexico Bar Association, including the Immigration Law Practice Section, the American Immigration Lawyers Association, including the Texas and California Chapters, and the American Civil Liberties Union.

Steven A. Sklar, of Pusin & Sklar, LLC, is startled to find that he has been practicing immigration law for 20 years. In his wide-ranging practice, based in Maplewood, NJ, he has handled most kinds of employment- and family-based petition and application matters, as well as administrative appeals to the AAO, BIA and BALCA, and removal defense litigation in Immigration Court and several U.S. Courts of Appeal. Before becoming a lawyer, Steve worked for nine years in film and video production and at the height of his showbiz career once drove George C. Scott around in a golf cart. He has started making films again (not his day job) and has recently finished writing a book, by turns funny and poignant, about his immigration law experiences, entitled The Alien's Companion. Information about purchasing copies of this unique work can be obtained by e-mailing sklar@stevensklar.com.

Daniel Stewart



Daniel Stewart is Board Certified in Immigration & Nationality Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization and has been rated as a Rising Star by Super Lawyers for 2014 and 2015. For nine years he has focused his practice on deportation defense, family immigration, citizenship litigation in the US District Courts, asylum law, and assisting immigrant survivors of domestic violence and crime obtain legal status. He also specializes in religious worker and investor non-immigrant visas. Daniel has extensive experience discussing immigration issues on radio programs and speaking in community outreach events. He is a zealous advocate for immigrant rights and currently works of counsel to the Verdin Law Firm in Dallas, Texas.

Daniel was born in Payson, Utah, and raised in Geneva, Switzerland. He is fluent in French and Spanish. He graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in 2001 with a Bachelor of Science in Communication Studies. In May 2006, Daniel received his Juris Doctor from Texas Tech University School of Law. While in law school, Daniel studied private international law at Lyon III University in Lyon, France. He also served as a law clerk for the US Department of the Interior in Washington, D.C.

When not at work, Daniel enjoys cycling and spending time with his wife and their four children. Daniel is admitted to practice law in Texas and is admitted to the United States Courts of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, and the US District Courts for the Northern District and the Eastern District of Texas. He is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and has featured as a speaker on bond hearings and removal defense strategies.

Paige Taylor



Paige Taylor is a Partner in the Dallas offices of Fragomen, where she advises and represents clients across a variety of industries, including telecommunications, technology, energy, engineering and electronics. She has extensive experience in developing, implementing and managing PERM labor certification programs, as well as counseling multinational corporations on immigration practices and policies associated with corporate reorganizations, mergers, name changes and layoffs; H-1, L-1, TN, O-1 and J-1 non-immigrant visas; and public access and I-9 program compliance and improvement. She also has developed a practice representing entertainers, athletes, scientists, researchers and health care professionals.

Ms. Taylor is a Board Member, of the Refugee Services of Texas. She was the Past Chair, State Bar of Texas Immigration & Nationality Section (2013 - 2014). She is a frequent speaker on immigration topics.

Best Lawyers in America, 2008-2014

Chambers USA, 2010-2013

AV Preeminent Rated, Martindale-Hubbell

Super Lawyers Rising Star, Texas, 2010

International Who's Who of Corporate Immigration Lawyers, 2009-2014

Jacqueline L. Watson is a native of El Paso and undergraduate alum of the University of Texas at El Paso. She earned her J.D. at the University of Texas School of Law. Certified in Immigration and Nationality Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, Jacqueline has practiced immigration law in Austin since 1999. She is currently an associate at the Law Office

of Thomas Esparza, Jr. and serves the Texas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico AILA Chapter as its Vice-Chair.

Amber L. Weeks is the Senior Associate Attorney at Noble & Vrapı, P.A., with offices in Albuquerque, New Mexico; Santa Fe, New Mexico, and El Paso, Texas. In addition to handling a broad range of immigration and naturalization cases and appeals, she specializes in removal defense and plea withdrawals for immigrant clients with criminal convictions. She also handles federal litigation challenging mandatory detention of immigrant clients and was co-counsel for the first impression case of *Melero Valdez v. Terry*, 874 F. Supp. 2d 1262 (D.N.M. 2012). She formerly served as a law clerk for the New Mexico Court of Appeals.

Lisa H. York, Esq., is a solo practitioner in Denver, Colorado who focuses on business and family immigration law. She is an elected Director of the AILA Board of Governors. In 2014-2015 she served as Chair of the Fundamentals Section of the AILA Annual Conference and as Vice-Chair of the AILA Interagency Committee. From 2012-2014, she chaired the AILA USCIS Field Operations Liaison Committee. In 2013, she was awarded an AILA President's Commendation Award. She has also served on the Ethics and Practice Management, the annual conference, and the 2010 Fall Conference Committees. Ms. York is a past Chair of the Colorado Chapter of AILA.

William K. Zimmer is a retired Immigration Judge with 17 years of experience. He served as an immigration judge in Houston, Texas for 15 years (1997-2012). Prior to that position, he was an Immigration Judge with the Immigration Court in Miami, Florida (1995-1997). Earlier in his career he worked as an Assistant District Counsel, and later as a Deputy District Counsel for former INS. He is a graduate of Wayne State University with an English Degree, and he earned his law degree from the South Texas College of Law.

Judge Zimmer has published two books recently, "Approaching the Bench from Inside the Immigration Court", and "The Tale of a Turtle Who Learned a Good Lesson". He currently serves as an Umpire for the Texas Association of Sports Officials, Baseball Division, Houston Chapter.

Jeffrey M. Zimskind is a shareholder in Stevens & Lee, based at the firm's Bethlehem, Pennsylvania office. Jeff graduated from McGill University in 1984 and from Villanova Law School in 1988. At Villanova, Jeff was an editor of the *Villanova Law Review*. After 10 years of practicing management-side labor and employment law exclusively, he took up the "hobby" of employment-based immigration law. Over the past 16 years, the hobby has taken over Jeff's practice and shattered his hopes for a life of quiet contemplation.

Jeff's practice encompasses the full spectrum of employment-based immigration law, and he often finds himself conducting management training sessions and addressing various employer groups, seminars and continuing legal and business education classes on various aspects of immigration law. He has been a guest on the television program Business Matters to address business immigration reform issues, and has also appeared on the television program Law Journal to discuss violence in the workplace.

Jeff has been an AILA member since 1999. He was a member of the AILALink Committee, has been a co-chair for many years of the Philadelphia Chapter Lobby Day/NDA committee, and is an AILA Mentor. In the community, he has been a board member and intermittent executive committee member of the Allentown Symphony Association for the past 15 years. Other community activities have included service as a board member, executive committee member and vice president of Temple Beth El in Allentown, as Treasurer of the Pat Toomey for Congress and Pat Toomey for Senate campaign committees, and as a volunteer Big Brother in Philadelphia.