

RESOURCES FOR IMMIGRATION LAWYERS

Introduction

Immigration law is complex and constantly changing. Beyond statutes and regulations, authoritative resources, of varying value, include court and administrative precedent and non-precedent decisions, Federal Register notices, agency policy statements, agency guidance, agency field manuals, operations memoranda, cables, minutes of agency liaison meetings with the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) on the national, regional, and local level, and other pronouncements.

The resources for immigration lawyers are numerous, scattered and constantly increasing in number. This list points the practitioner to commonly used resources, it is far from exhaustive.

An invaluable resource is other practitioners of immigration law. There is a high level of collegiality in the immigration bar and most are very willing to be helpful to their colleagues in discussing, analyzing, and strategizing cases. Internet bulletin boards and listservs can be found through AILA and various URLs dedicated to specific areas of immigration law.

The Oregon Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association has a Chapter Library with free resources available to chapter members. These resources include immigration statutes, codes, regulations, manuals, handbooks, and Kurzban's.. The Chapter Library is housed at Catholic Charities Immigration Legal Services (2740 SE Powell Blvd. Portland, OR, 97202). The Oregon AILA Chapter also an AILALink account available to all Chapter members from their own computers. AILALink has a wide variety of immigration resources, including many publications, statutes, memos, and access to FastCase Premium, a searchable database of case law. Many of the resources listed below are also available on AILALink. The Oregon AILA Chapter also holds regular free CLEs and "lunch and learn" sessions on a variety of immigration topics.

Statute and Regulations

The basic statute is the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), 8 U.S.C. 1101 *et seq.*, see <http://bit.ly/2jAcv2W>

Regulations are found at: 6 C.F.R. *et seq.* (Homeland Security); 8 C.F.R. *et seq.* (Aliens & Nationality - Part 1 - Definitions, Part 2 - Authority of the Secretary of Homeland Security & Part 3 - Executive Office for Immigration Review (Immigration Court)); 20 C.F.R. *et seq.* (Employee Benefits (Department of Labor)); 22 C.F.R. *et seq.* (Foreign Relations (State Department/Consular operations)); 28 C.F.R. *et seq.* (Judicial Administration), and 42 C.F.R. *et seq.* (Public Health) see <http://bit.ly/UB7oU6>.

The INA and regulations at 8 CFR are available at the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS or CIS) Web site. The USCIS LAWS section provides information on laws, regulations, and interpretations controlling immigration and the work of the immigration-related components of the Department of Homeland Security, see <http://bit.ly/2jsj0cX>. This Web page has links to:

- Published USCIS regulations in [Title 8 of the Code of Federal Regulations](#) (8 CFR);
- Statutes governing immigration law in the [Immigration and Nationality Act](#);
- [USCIS Federal Register Publications](#), including notices, proposed, interim and final rules;
- [Administrative Decisions](#) from the USCIS Administrative Appeals Office; and
- [Handbooks and guides](#) used by immigration officers in performing their mission.

See the federal regulations implementing the INA at <http://bit.ly/2kol43X>.

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Regulations have not been promulgated for all sections of the INA. The practitioner must rely on agency written statements, for guidance, see <http://bit.ly/2jsj0cX>

Organizations

American Immigration Lawyers Association

AILA is a professional organization with over 15,000 attorneys and law professors who practice and teach immigration law. Founded in 1946, AILA is a nonpartisan, not-for-profit organization that provides continuing legal education, information, professional services, and expertise through its 39 chapters and over 50 national committees. It maintains an extensive online library that is available, with restrictions, to non-members at www.aila.org. Members have access to more extensive resources including listservs, mentoring, agency case liaison support, CLEs, legal publications, current events, conferences, Web resources and much more. It is hard to practice immigration law competently without being a member of AILA. AILA can be contacted at:

American Immigration Lawyers Association
Suite 300, 1331 G Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005-3142
Phone: 202-507-7600
Fax: 202-783-7853
Web site: www.aila.org

AILA resources include:

AILA InfoNet – an online resource and community for immigration news and information, including federal agency memos and regulatory activity; bills and public laws; legislative analysis and updates; practice advisories; AILA statements and issue papers; and more. InfoNet also provides AILA-related information and updates, including CLE offerings, publications, and announcements. InfoNet's interactive features enable members to communicate and network with each other; support and participate in AILA's issues; and to search over 15,000 immigration-related documents. Limited access to InfoNet resources is available to non-AILA members. www.aila.org

AILALink – a Web-based research tool, which includes immigration-related statutes, regulations, court and agency decisions, agency resources, immigration forms, many (but not all) AILA books, and Internet resources. It can be downloaded for use on mobile computers without Internet access. <http://ailalink.aila.org/login.html>

AILA Publications include essential publications on immigration law topics and include practice guides, CLEs, scholarly writings, and volumes with the statutes and regulations. These are essential to the practitioner. <http://agora.aila.org/>

Kurzban's Immigration Law Sourcebook is the indispensable bible of immigration law. An updated version is published approximately every two years. The 15th Edition, published in June 2016, <https://agora.aila.org/product/detail/2885> is available in many law libraries in Oregon. The 16th edition is expedited to be released in June 2018.

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American Immigration Lawyers Association - Oregon Chapter

Resources related to immigration issues in Oregon: www.ailaoregon.org. The AILA Oregon Chapter has monthly meetings and periodic liaison meetings with local DHS agencies including CIS, CBP, and ICE. The Oregon Chapter also participates in the AILA Northwest Conference along with the Washington AILA Chapter every year. The two-day conference is usually held in the early spring in either Seattle or Portland.

Government Web Sites

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) - www.dhs.gov

DHS agencies, which were formerly part of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) include:

- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS or CIS) - This provides services under the INA. Its invaluable Web site includes forms, statutes, regulations, processing times, individual case status, Administrative Appeals Office decisions, filing instructions, on-line filing (limited), office locator, and many other resources. www.uscis.gov.
- U.S. Customs and Border Protection (USCBP or CBP). This oversees the admission of persons to the U.S. at various ports-of-entry. Its Web site includes forms and agency contacts- - www.cbp.gov; and
- U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (USICE or ICE) - This is the enforcement agency under the INA (and many other non-immigration laws). Its attorneys prosecute removal (deportation) cases. Its Web site includes forms, agency contacts and an on-line library - www.ice.gov.

Department of State

A comprehensive resource which includes the Foreign Affairs Manual, (FAM), which guides consular officers and is an authoritative source which can be cited, information on visas, U.S. passports, travel warnings, emergency services for U.S. citizens, and URLs for consulates around the world.

www.state.gov

Department of Justice

Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) - Immigration Court.

- Main Web site: www.justice.gov/eoir/
- Immigration Court Practice Manual: <http://bit.ly/2jSuAKL>
- EOIR Virtual Law Library - <http://bit.ly/2kRTUQZ>
- Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) Precedent Decisions and Practice Manual - <http://bit.ly/2kOSLhe>
- Office of the Chief Administrative Hearing Officer (OCAHO) Decision Index – jurisdiction over: (1) employer sanctions for employment of unauthorized aliens - INA §274A; (2) immigration-related unfair employment practices - INA §274B; and (3) immigration-related document fraud - INA §274C. <http://bit.ly/2jSnrwe>

Department of Labor (DOL)

Includes Board of Alien Labor Certification Appeals (BALCA) cases (related to certain employment-based immigration benefits), wage data, occupational information and forms: www.dol.gov

- U.S. Department of Labor Law Library - Immigration Collection: includes statutes, regulations, policies, and general information for aliens and employers, case

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decisions and Immigration Collection: Board of Alien Labor Certification Appeals and Office of Administrative Law Judges: www.oalj.dol.gov/LIBINA.HTM.

Forms

See AILA INFONET and listings for the forms of individual agencies, *supra*. The URL for each agency includes forms or just Google the form name or number.

Ninth Circuit Immigration Outline

Synthesizes procedural and substantive principles relating to immigration law in the Ninth Circuit: <http://bit.ly/2kRQE8g>

Web Resources

The AILA URL provides links to web resources, including these topics: <http://www.aila.org/infonet/web-resources> (available to non-members).

- Legal Research;
- Executive Office & Relevant Agencies;
- Government Information;
- Immigration-Related Organizations;
- Policy Research;
- Legislative Research;
- Judicial & Administrative Research;
- Human Rights, Civil Rights, and Refugees;
- Children's Issues;
- Law and Professional Associations;
- International;
- Pro Bono; and
- General Litigation Resources.

Web Sites Providing Immigration Law Developments and News

AILA

www.aila.org/.

LexisNexis -- Immigration Law Community

Daily news updates, emerging issues analysis and guest commentaries, podcasts and LexisNexis resources in Immigration Law. Register for excellent daily e-mail updates. <http://bit.ly/2jAfCrD>

Thomson Reuters "Interpreter Releases"

Weekly reports on and analysis of up-to-the-minute information covering all aspects of immigration law. Weekly issues are available on Westlaw® in the INTERREL database; articles are posted to INTERREL-DAILY daily, Monday through Friday. <http://legalsolutions.thomsonreuters.com/law-products/Newsletter/Interpreter-Releases/p/100029523>

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ILW.com

General immigration law news and resources.

<http://www.ilw.com>.

Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC)

General immigration law news and resources.

<http://www.ilrc.org/>.

Publications

AILA Publications, *supra*.

Immigrant Legal Resources Center

Multiple other immigration law publications including

Defending Immigrants in the Ninth Circuit: Impact of Crimes under California and Other State Laws,

<https://www.ilrc.org/publications>

LexisNexis Immigration Law eCatalog

Multiple publications including treatises, publications on specialized immigration topics and practice guides: <http://bit.ly/2jAhHUB>. The eCatalog includes:

- Immigration Law & Procedure – 21-volume treatise on Immigration Law published by LexisNexis: <https://store.lexisnexis.com/categories/product/immigration-law-procedure-skuusSku10420> Available in some law libraries in Oregon.

Thomson Reuters Catalog

Multiple publications including treatises, publications on specialized immigration topics, and practice

guides: [http://legalsolutions.thomsonreuters.com/law-](http://legalsolutions.thomsonreuters.com/law-products/search?q=immigration&r=13001&s=KEYWORDSEARCH)

[products/search?q=immigration&r=13001&s=KEYWORDSEARCH](http://legalsolutions.thomsonreuters.com/law-products/search?q=immigration&r=13001&s=KEYWORDSEARCH).

Resource Web Sites – Non-Issue Specific

Legal Action Center (LAC) of the American Immigration Council

(Formerly known as the American Immigration Law Foundation). LAC engages in impact litigation, and appears as amicus curiae before administrative tribunals and federal courts, serve as a point of contact for lawyers conducting or contemplating immigration litigation and provides resources for immigration litigation and policy and publishes practice advisories on immigration law. LAC works with other immigrants' rights organizations and immigration attorneys across the United States to promote the just and fair administration of our immigration laws. <http://www.legalactioncenter.org/>.

National Immigration Project

Provides legal assistance and technical support to immigrant communities, legal practitioners, and advocates of the rights of non-citizens. <http://www.nationalimmigrationproject.org/>.

Catholic Immigration Network (CLINIC)

Provides updates, trainings, and resources for community-based immigration programs. Many resources are on-line. <http://www.cliniclegal.org/>.

ILW.com

General immigration law resources, <http://www.ilw.com>.

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Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC)

Provides legal trainings, technical assistance to practitioners, educational materials (publications and extensive on-line resources), and advocacy on immigration issues. ILRC has listservs on various areas of immigration law. <http://www.ilrc.org/>.

Resource Web Sites – Issue Specific Resources

Asylum

Department of State Report on Human Rights – Country Reports on Human Rights Practices
<http://bit.ly/R2jmou> and <http://bit.ly/2jSDKXN>.

Department of State Report on International Religious Freedom – <http://bit.ly/2jSxDoE>

Refworld - <http://www.refworld.org/>.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) – U.N. Refugee Agency
<http://bit.ly/1c9lvGY>.

Amnesty International Online – <http://www.amnesty.org/>.

Human Rights Watch – <http://www.hrw.org/>.

Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs – scales of justice – Directory of search engines and searchable databases <http://bit.ly/2kNIHBU>.

Immigration Advocates Network – network that supports legal advocates working on behalf of immigrants' rights. <http://www.immigrationadvocates.org/>.

USCIS Asylum Division Training Programs – <http://bit.ly/2kNDyK5>

U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants – www.refugees.org

World Organization Against Torture – www.omct.org

Also, see country-specific human rights organizations.

Criminal

National Immigration Project – (expanded access for members)
<https://nationalimmigrationproject.org/practice.html>.

Oregon Justice Resource Center, Immigrant Rights Project: <https://ojrc.info/immigrantrightsproject/>

Washington Defender Association Immigration Project: <http://bit.ly/2jsh7Nw>

New York State Defenders Association (NYSDA) Criminal Defense – <http://www.nysda.org/>

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Law Offices of Norton Tooby – Publications on the immigration consequences of criminal convictions, post-conviction relief, and criminal defense of noncitizens.

http://nortontooby.com/services/criminal_defense and
<http://nortontooby.com/services/immigrationattys>.

See also, PLF practice aid, [Immigration Consequences of Criminal Activity](#), available on our website at www.osbplf.org.

Victims

ASISTA – Resources for advocacy for immigrant survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. Listserv available. <http://www.asistahelp.org/>.

International

Embassies – www.embassy.org.

Foreign Consulates

In the United States – <http://bit.ly/2jStwqp>.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

This material is provided for informational purposes only and does not establish, report, or create the standard of care for attorneys in Oregon, nor does it represent a complete analysis of the topics. Readers should conduct their own appropriate legal research. The information presented does not represent legal advice. This information may not be republished, sold, or used in any other form without the written consent of the Oregon State Bar Professional Liability Fund, except that permission is granted for Oregon lawyers to use and modify these materials for their own practices.

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