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2025 AILA Spring CLE Conference and Webcast: Government Relations Update & Law Journal Ethics Symposium

Join us for the 2025 AILA Spring CLE Conference and Webcast to get an insider's view of what is happening at the government agencies. This conference provides a unique opportunity to hear directly from agency leadership and representatives of the administration. Agency officials and AILA liaison committees will discuss the latest regulatory and policy initiatives affecting your practice and clients. You'll also learn about current trends, issues in agency adjudications, and potential future changes.

Viewing Options: On Thursday, April 3, and Friday, April 4, 2025, faculty members will present live sessions at the Grand Hyatt Washington. All registrants will be given a link to the entire set of conference recordings, so any sessions missed can be revisited later (particularly helpful for our West Coast participants given the time difference).

AILA Law Journal Symposium: **New this year**, the *AILA Law Journal* will host three sessions on Friday morning as part of the Spring Conference.

Note: AILA's 2025 National Day of Action (NDA) also will be held on Thursday, April 3, 2025. As a result, some portions of the conference may overlap with NDA schedules. Separate registration for NDA is required.

**April 3-4, 2025
Grand Hyatt Washington
1000 H St. NW
Washington, D.C.**

*Times listed on the program are Eastern Time
Note: All sessions and events are subject to change without notice.*

Thursday, April 3, 2025

2:00 pm – 5:30 pm **Registration and Exhibits**

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm **Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) Open Forum**

- Impact of Recent EOIR Memoranda
- Administrative Closure and Dismissal under 2024 EOIR Regs
- Expedited Removal Where Section 240 Removal Proceedings Have Been Initiated

- EOIR Docket Management and Case Timelines

Faculty:

*Aaron Hall (DL), EOIR Liaison Committee Chair, Aurora, CO
Misha Seay, EOIR Liaison Committee Vice Chair, Oakland, CA*

4:00 pm – 4:30 pm **Networking Break**

4:30 pm – 5:30 pm **Verification and Documentation Open Forum**

- E-Verify: Updates on E-Verify+ and E-Verify enhancements
- Immigrant and Employee Rights Section (IER) update: IER updates, is technology a friend or foe in the anti-discrimination world?
- I-9 documentation: What employers need to know about changes to TPS, acceptable documents, etc.
- I-9 audits, labor exploitation investigations, and other compliance actions

Faculty:

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

John Mazzeo, AILA Verification and Documentation Liaison Committee Vice Chair, Warminster, PA

Jennifer Deines, Acting Deputy Special Counsel, Immigrant and Employee Rights Section, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm **Immigrants' List Civic Action 2025 Capitol Awards Reception**

Spring Conference registrants receive complimentary access to the reception but registration is required. Learn more and register [here](#).

Friday, April 4, 2025

7:30 am – 5:45 pm **Registration and Exhibits**

Track I: Government Relations Update

8:00 am – 9:10 am **U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Hot Topics**

- Updates and changes under the new administration
- Updates on the expansion of Expedited Removal
- Updates on the expansion of detention facilities and mandatory detention
- Updates on liaison and communicating with ICE-ERO and OPLA

Faculty:

*John Gihon (DL), AILA ICE Liaison Committee Chair, Altamonte Springs, FL
Michelle Edstrom, AILA ICE Liaison Committee Vice Chair, Oklahoma City, OK
Sophia M. Genovese, AILA ICE Liaison Committee Member, Albuquerque, NM*

9:10 am – 9:40 am **Networking Break**

9:40 am – 10:50 am **U.S. Department of State (DOS) Open Forum**

- Navigating the navigators: how to contact consular posts

- IT issues: Engaging with AVITS, CEAC, etc.
- Updates on various issues including stateside visa renewals, Korea E-3, etc.
- Understanding visa wait times
- Implementation of Executive Orders and other changes

Faculty:

Steven D. Heller (DL), AILA DOS Liaison Committee Chair, Lewes, East Sussex, UK

Claire S. Pratt, AILA DOS Liaison Committee Vice Chair, San Francisco, CA

Taylor Beaumont, Deputy Assistant Legal Advisor, U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C.

10:50 am – 11:20 am **Networking Break**

11:20 am – 12:30 pm **U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) Open Forum**

- OFLC Program and FLAG Updates
- PERM and PWD Processing Times
- PERM RFIs, Audits, Supervised Recruitment and Denials
- H-2 Modernization

Faculty:

Bob White (DL), AILA DOL Liaison Committee Chair, Schaumburg, IL

Sonal Verma, AILA DOL Liaison Committee Vice Chair, Rockville, MD

Edward White, AILA DOL Liaison Committee Vice Chair, Boston, MA

Brandt Carter, Deputy Director, Employment and Training Administration, DOL Office of Foreign Labor Certification, Washington, D.C.

Lindsey Baldwin, Director, National Prevailing Wage Center, National Prevailing Wage Director, DOL Office of Foreign Labor Certification Washington, D.C.

John Rotterman, PERM Director, Employment and Training Administration, DOL Office of Foreign Labor Certification, Washington, D.C.

12:30 pm – 1:00 pm **Lunch (Provided)**

1:00 pm – 2:10 pm **U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Hot Topics**

- Staffing and leadership updates
- Registration IFR
- Policy changes at USCIS
- FY2026 H-1B cap lottery updates
- myUSCIS and other technology enhancements
- Asylum, refugee, and international operations updates

Faculty:

Kevin Miner (DL), AILA USCIS HQ Liaison Committee Chair, Spring Conference Chair, Atlanta, GA

Lucy G. Cheung, USCIS High Impact Adjudications Assistance Committee Chair, New York, NY

Jeanette Kain, AILA USCIS Field Operations Liaison Committee Chair, Boston, MA

Vincent W. Lau, AILA USCIS HQ (Benefits Policy) Liaison Committee Vice Chair, Boston, MA

2:10 pm – 2:40 pm **Networking Break**

2:40 pm – 3:50 pm **U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Open Forum**

- Hot topics in admissions
- Trusted Traveler Program updates

- Documentation for entry
- Admissibility Review Office (ARO) updates

Faculty:

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

Zabrina Reich, AILA CBP Liaison Committee Vice Chair, Buffalo, NY

Matthew S. Davies, Executive Director, Field Operations, Baltimore, MD

Graham S. Dudley, Director, Enforcement Programs Division, Admissibility and Passenger Programs, Office of Field Operations, Washington, D.C.

3:50 pm – 4:20 pm

Networking Break

4:20 pm – 5:30 pm

Former Agency Officials Roundtable

- Understanding immigration changes under the new administration
- How immigration attorneys can prepare and what we might expect in the future
- Cross-Agency issues and the big picture
- Understanding the challenges with the new administrations proposed changes

Faculty:

Gregory Chen (DL), AILA Senior Director of Government Relations, Washington, D.C.

Angela Kelley, AILA Chief Advisor, Washington, D.C.

Betsy Lawrence, Former Deputy Asst. to the President, Biden-Harris Admin. Washington, D.C.

Ur Jaddou, Former USCIS Director, Washington, D.C.

Deborah “Deb” Fleischaker, Former ICE Chief of Staff, Washington, D.C.

Rebecca Walters, Former Assistant Chief Immigration Judge, Washington, D.C.

Track II: Law Journal Ethics Symposium

8:00 am – 8:10 am **Introductory Remarks**

Cyrus Mehta, AILA Law Journal Editor-in-Chief, New York, NY

8:10 am – 9:10 am **Ethical Challenges with Access to Justice**

Nationwide, professional responsibility and conduct rules recognize the special role of lawyers to promote the application of equal justice under law. This responsibility extends to lawyers assisting in making the justice system accessible to all, including repairing deficiencies in the administration of justice, as well as providing adequate legal assistance. Our expert panelists will discuss the ethical challenges faced by immigration practitioners in the context of access to justice, particularly during the first 75 days of a new presidential administration. Topics will include:

- High-pressure situations, including balancing pro bono caseloads, maintaining quality representation, and navigating large-scale immigration enforcement actions
- Language, social, and cultural differences between attorneys and clients
- Updates from nonprofit organizations, including leveraging resources and support for immigration advocacy
- Fostering a deeper understanding of the ethical obligations and practical strategies necessary to provide effective and compassionate legal representation to immigrant communities.

Faculty:

*Olivia Serene Lee (Moderator), AILA Board of Governors/ Member Experience
Committee Chair, AILA Law Journal Editorial Board, San Francisco, CA
Joanna Mexicano Furmanska, Los Angeles, CA
Jennifer Lee Koh, Irvine CA
Lauren Migliaccio, New York, NY
Emily Ryo, Durham, NC*

9:10 am – 9:40 am **Networking Break**

9:40 am – 10:50 am **Understanding Matter of Lozada**

Attorney malpractice is one of the thornier issues facing immigration lawyers, particularly because of the case of Matter of Lozada, 19 I&N Dec. 637 (BIA 1988). Lozada – as a practical matter- has required immigration attorneys to file bar complaints against prior counsel if they are seeking to have a case re-opened due to ineffective assistance or malpractice of prior counsel. The Trump administration went a step further by enshrining this procedure in regulations which were withdrawn by the Biden administration on December 19, 2024. The aim of this panel is to consider:

- What the BIA was seeking to do in Lozada, whether subsequent application of the case actually accomplished the BIA's objectives;
- Whether there is a better or different way to still reach the BIA's objectives that does not require filing a bar complaint;
- What keeps potential changes from being implemented, and;
- What are the implications of change or a decision to keep the standard?

Faculty:

Dagmar Butte (Moderator), Portland, OR

*Aliza B. Kaplan, Portland, OR
Jenn Piatt, Arlington, VA*

10:50 am – 11:20 am **Networking Break**

11:20 am – 12:30 pm **Artificial Intelligence, Ethics, and Immigration Law**

In today's legal landscape, artificial intelligence (AI) is increasingly being harnessed as a tool to streamline law firm operations and enhance efficiency, but its integration into the practice of law poses many ethical considerations. Topics will include:

- A brief introduction to AI and an overview of how AI tools are currently being used by immigration lawyers.
- AI's interaction with the standards for competent representation, including balancing the duty to stay abreast of technological advancements with being aware of their limitations.
- The necessity of safeguarding confidential and sensitive information when using AI, the risks inherent in these tools, such as data breaches and unauthorized disclosure, and best practices for minimizing risk and ensuring data protection.
- Accountability and supervision issues posed by using AI tools, with a particular focus on navigating incorrect or nonexistent information produced by AI, known as "hallucinations."
- The impact that AI tools may have on traditional legal billing models, including enhanced efficiency and the need to account for work completed partially or fully by AI.
- Technology's intersection with the rise of alternative legal service providers, which can address access to justice issues and provide innovative solutions, but also raise ethical concerns, such as the unauthorized practice of law.

Faculty:

Kaitlyn Box (Moderator), New York, NY

Matthew Blaisdell, Brooklyn, NY

Eric Martinez, Chicago, IL

Joshua Walker, New York, NY

5:30 pm

Conference Concludes

Conference Program Committee

*Kevin Miner, Conference Chair, AILA USCIS HQ (Benefits Policy)
Liaison Committee Chair, Atlanta, GA*

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

John Gihon (DL), AILA ICE Liaison Committee Chair, Altamonte Springs, FL

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

Kimberley Best Robidoux, AILA Verification and Documentation Liaison Committee Chair, San Diego, CA

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

Sharvari (Shev) Dalal-Dheini, Senior Director of Government Relations, Washington, D.C

Emmie R. Smith, AILA Director of Professional Development, Washington, D.C.