

2022

UPPER MIDWEST IMMIGRATION LAW CONFERENCE

MAY 20 | 8AM-5PM | ZOOM



Registration

\$125 attorneys | paralegals
\$25 current students

CLE Information

30 Minnesota CLE credits approved
(Earn up to 6 live credits / all credits available on-demand)

Minnesota CLE Event Codes:

Live Webinar 454810

On-Demand 454811

[Click here to register at the AILA MN/DAK Chapter Website](#)

Day At A Glance

7:45 AM Central Time	Conference Hub Opens
8:15 AM Central Time	Opening Plenary
8:30-12:00 Central Time	Morning Sessions
12:00-1:15 PM Central Time	Lunch Break, including 30-minute Self-Care Guided Meditation
1:15-4:45 PM Central Time	Afternoon Sessions
4:45 PM Central Time	Closing Plenary
5:30 PM Central Time	In-Person Happy Hour <i>Nico's Tacos, 2260 Como Ave, St Paul, MN 55108</i>

All conference sessions, times, and speakers subject to change

FIRM MANAGEMENT MORNING

8:30-9:30	<p>Growing Your Firm... Pain Free</p> <p>Ruby Powers (DL) Graham Ojala-Barbour Cassondre Buteyn</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying your firm's vision, culture, and goals Planning and building for growth (contractors, virtual staff, receptionist 24/7, additional offices) Growing as a Manager - "If you want to grow, you have to let go." Sustaining consistent and healthy growth
9:45-10:45	<p>Common Ethics Complaints against Immigration Attorneys and How to Avoid Them (ETHICS)</p> <p>Michele Carney (DL) Cyrus Mehta Alan Goldfarb</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CDC – Competence, Diligence & Communication – the three top areas for ethics complaints AILA Discipline podcast series – takeaways from regulatory authorities in several states Responding to a bar complaint Best practices to avoid a bar complaint
11:00-12:00	<p>Solo and Small-Firm Tech Options to Work Smarter and Increase Profits</p> <p>David Kubat (DL) Nadine Heitz Roman Zelichenko</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic tech tools and automation you need for your firm Using nontraditional tech for immigration lawyers Automation is key! Not doing it alone when learning new tech Providing feedback to tech vendors Creative ways to make your tech spend a revenue center vs. a cost center

EMPLOYMENT- BASED PRACTICE

<p>8:30-9:30</p>	<p>Consular Practices in Post-Covid World: Issues with Consular Priorities & Backlogs</p> <p>Andrew Wilson (DL) Poorvi Chothani Steven D. Heller</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any trouble posts for L's (including Blanket L-1s), H's and O-1s? Procedures for expediting visa appointments Updates on visa interview waiver, drop box & "nothing is off the table" options Issues with TN processing at various POEs/PFIs & TCN processing through Canada Delays with employment-based immigrant visa cases Returning resident visas – possible or a pipe dream despite COVID-19?
<p>9:45-10:45</p>	<p>Special Considerations Related to High Skilled Workers and Processing Time Delays</p> <p>Allison Wells (DL) Jennifer Bouta Mojica Sarah A. Robison Iyer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Navigating processing time delays – how to work through the impact of lengthy green card processing on NIV statuses (L, H, O, TN, E) and extensions Case processing for dependents – strategies for maximizing dependent status, including updates to EAD rules for L-2, H-4, and E-2 Transitioning high skilled F-1 students into an employment-based status – what we have learned about the registration process and alternatives to H-1B RFE Trends for High Skilled Workers in NIV and IV context
<p>11:00-12:00</p>	<p>Healthcare Immigration in 2022: Issue-spotting, Trends, Practice Pointers, and Updates</p> <p>Robert P. Webber (DL) Trisha Yukawa Elissa J. Taub</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insights from In-House Counsel and a Private Practitioner with a National Practice Physicians – H1B cap exemption; J1 waivers; licensing/credentialing; travel Registered Nurses – Are H-1Bs possible? Timing for Schedule A; Staffing Agencies; Visa Screens; Visa Bulletin; Visa Processing Other Healthcare Workers – Physical Therapists, Pharmacists, Med Techs, Physicists, AI, Data Analytics Work-from-home versus Telehealth
<p>1:15-2:15</p>	<p>Celebrity Immigration: Os, Ps, EBs</p> <p>Nico Ratkowski (DL) Michael Wildes Ksenia Maiorova Rita Sostrin</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recent trends Responding to RFEs/NOIDs Practical realities of working with celebrity clients General tips from experts
<p>2:30-3:30</p>	<p>H-2 Workers and Permanent Residency Considerations</p> <p>Marit E. Gurley (DL) Jarrod Sharp Jeanne M. Malitz</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> H-2A Overview: agencies, timing, documentation, and current issues in processing Key issues in H-2A compliance and DOL, Wage & Hour oversight H-2B Overview: process, lottery and grouping issues, supplemental visas, and timing Considerations when filing PERMs for H-2 workers Current audit and other adjudication trends
<p>3:45-4:45</p>	<p>Best Practices for Labor Certification</p> <p>Sarah Peterson (DL) Vincent Lau</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DOL Updates Prevailing Wage Determinations The Remote and Roving employee When the regs don't have the answers: good faith recruiting and lessons learned from FB Audit trends and tips BALCA updates Q&A (5 minutes)

<p>8:30-9:30</p>	<p>What to Expect at the Local Office: Trends and Tips for RFEs and Interviews</p> <p>Patrick Hellier (DL) Danielle Hendrickson Brittany Bakken Naomi Perman</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N-400 Interviews: N-648's, GMC denials and avoiding RFE's • I-485 - filing to avoid RFE's, RFE trends, disability accommodations • Expedite requests • Post-interview follow-up options
<p>9:45-10:45</p>	<p>Year in Review</p> <p>Erin Lins (DL) Julie Carlson Mary O'Leary Elizabeth Holmes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consular processing tips and tricks • USCIS RFE trends • Comprehensive immigration and new legislation update • Bona fide determination EADs in the U context
<p>11:00-12:00</p>	<p>Immigration Research & Resources</p> <p>Jack Sturtz (DL) Maria Baldini-Potermin Loren Turner Sarah Loor</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tips for using research tools including AILALink, Westlaw, Lexis, and the Immigration Trial Handbook • Crimmigration research: Identifying elements versus means and applying the realistic probability test • Order of operations for tackling your research project • Practice tips for organizing your research
<p>1:15-2:15</p>	<p>Using Case Liaison Assistance</p> <p>Megan Galasso (DL) Nicole Simon Miranda Morgan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choosing the right assistance for your case • Setting expectations for clients and attorneys • Any updates • Success stories
<p>2:30-3:30</p>	<p>Using the Federal Court to Unstick Stuck Cases: APA and Mandamus</p> <p>Marc Prokosch (DL) Mary Beth Kaufman Jon Wadsen</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What types of cases can you use APA/mandamus actions on? • Laying a good foundation for a successful federal court action • What are the possible outcomes in these types of actions? • How do you structure fees? • Challenges for small firms with clients who have limited resources
<p>3:45-4:45</p>	<p>Complicated Cases for Kids (ETHICS)</p> <p>Nysha Operana (DL) Lucy Egberg Marlys Ubben</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orphans and adoptions: collaborating with adoption agencies • Non-traditional families, including stepchildren and unmarried fathers • Age-out problems: CSPA, expediting cases, and K visas • CBRAs • Humanitarian Parole for children born after visa issuance

HUMANITARIAN AND REMOVAL PRACTICE

<p>8:30-9:30</p>	<p>Representing Clients with Mental Health, Severe Trauma, or Diminished Capacity (ETHICS)</p> <p>Ana Pottratz Acosta (DL) Emma Wells Dena Birkenkamp Emily Manaen</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best practices when representing clients with mental illness • Trauma informed lawyering when representing clients with mental illness • Working with mental health practitioners • Representing clients in removal and asylum proceedings • N-648 and oath waivers for naturalization applicants
<p>9:45-10:45</p>	<p>Asylum Updates</p> <p>Cameron Giebink (DL) Hanne Sandison Alison Griffith Stephen Meili</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Litigation/Class Actions • PSG/Private Actor
<p>11:00-12:00</p>	<p>LGBTQI+ & Asylum/Hardship/Waivers (EOB)</p> <p>Anthony Sosa (DL) Clement Lee Gloria Contreras Edin Brian Aust</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressing culturally specific LGBTQ terminology and strategies for managing conflation of sexual orientation and gender identity by adjudicators, persecutors, and asylum applicants • How to deal with discrepancies in a CFI/RFI and the testimony they will give in court • How to prepare your client to give testimony or draft an affidavit on the issues
<p>1:15-2:15</p>	<p>Strategies for Working with OPLA and The Court (ETHICS)</p> <p>Jesus Torres-Garza (DL) Magdalena Metelska Kathy Moccio Alyssa Nguyen</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status dockets and abbreviated hearings • Prosecutorial discretion - current policy and practices • Motions and Stipulations • Ethical considerations
<p>2:30-3:30</p>	<p>Advanced Issues for VAWA, U Visas, and T Visas (EOB)</p> <p>Lee Anne Mills (DL) Rekha Sharma-Crawford Lindsey Greising Paula Schwartzbauer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates • Dynamics of trauma and working with trauma-impacted clients • Techniques for challenging cases - imperfect victims, recollection issues • EAD issues • Communication issues with Vermont Service Center
<p>3:45-4:45</p>	<p>Removal Defense Updates</p> <p>Mary Georgevich (DL) Kevin Heinz Thomas R. Anderson III Evangeline Dhawan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosecutorial Discretion at every level • Procedure tips and tricks • Updates on specific forms of relief • Updates on the detained docket

	Employment-Based	Family-Based	Humanitarian & Removal
1:15-2:15	<p>H-1B Basics N. Georgette Marling (DL), Caroline Ostrom, Alison Brandell-Douglas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic guidelines and qualifications for H-1B status H-1B Lottery Nuts and Bolts of H-1B Process Common Issues for H-1B 	<p>Consults, Issue Spotting and Dual Representation (ETHICS) Jeff Larson (DL), Grace Fiddler, Loan Huynh</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How Do You Prepare For Immigration Consultations? When the Immigration Worlds Collide: Issue Spotting in Immigration Consultations Dual Representations 	<p>How to Represent Clients in Bond Hearings Lisa Temich (DL), Alexis Dutt, Maria Miller</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eligibility and mandatory custody. Client screening process and client locator. Preparing for Redetermine Custody Hearing. Including burden of proof, evidence, testimonies, witnesses. Dealing with Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and stipulating a bond amount. How to pay bond? Process of appealing a negative decision. What happens when DHS appeals a favorable decision? Creative solutions for getting a client out of jail without a bond or to make a client eligible for bond. Tying bond hearing to immigration case.
2:30-3:30	<p>Employment-Based Immigrant Visa Backlogs – “Life in the Slow Lane” Matthew Webster (DL), John Medeiros, Jesse Goldfarb</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview of EB Permanent Residence Process Visa Bulletin/Dates of Filing, Final Action Charts Quotas Strategy/Recommendations 	<p>Consular Processing Brianna Zuber Beckwith (DL), Abdinahir Abdulahi, Viorel Ureke</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st step in family-based CP cases: I-130 and related issues 2nd step in CP cases: National Visa Center and related issues 3rd step in CP cases: Interview at the Consulate and related issues Other common issues/types of cases that require CP 	<p>Building an Affirmative Asylum Case Kim Boche (DL), Angela Bortel, Malinda Schmiechen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Get to know your client Filing your application Supplementing Preparing for the asylum interview
3:45-4:45	<p>PERM Step By Step Mikaela Devine (DL), Rachel Davis Scherf, Paschal O. Nwokocha</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Definition of PERM and its benefits, timeline Step One: Intake/Assessment Process Step Two: Prevailing Wage and related issues Processes for Recruitment and PERM Application Filing I-140 Petition and final steps if approved 	<p>Waivers Kayla Hoel (DL), Mai Neng Moua, Anthony Baquero</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grounds of Inadmissibility Waivers available for nonimmigrants and immigrants When to use, standards for each and process Case samples 	<p>Personal Statements in Difficult Situations: Strategies in sensitive cases like asylum, VAWA, and U/T Visas Anne Carlson (DL), Kelly Cveykus, Lisa Salazar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparing yourself and the client Effective use of interpreters Working with survivors of trauma and people with mental health or cognitive issues Tips for communication while working remotely

Post-Conference Happy Hour

5:30 pm

Nico's Taco Bar *Como Location*
Party Room

2260 Como Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55108

Join colleagues for a fun and relaxed opportunity to network and learn about the benefits of AILA membership. Enjoy a taco bar with chips, salsa & guacamole, rice & beans, & churros.

Hosted by the New Member Division liaisons Nysha Operana, Calleigh McRaith, Julie Carlson, Kelsey Allen Woods, & Kelsey Friberg

Attendees must follow the AILA MN/DAK Chapter's [Health and Safety Policy for In-Person Events](#).

