



# 2020 Midwest Regional Conference

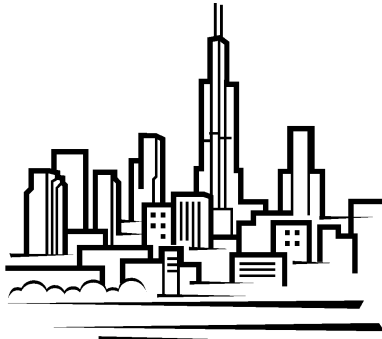
Friday, October 9, 2020 ◦ Presented virtually! ◦ Chicago, Illinois

The Chicago Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) is pleased to announce that its annual Midwest Regional Conference **will be held virtually on Friday, October 9, 2020**. The conference will cover hot topics in immigration law, including litigation, employment-based immigration issues, naturalization, and more.

**Conference Chair: Kathleen M. Vannucci**  
**Conference Vice-Chairs: Ian Wagreich & Kevin Raica**

**Friday, October 9, 2020**  
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

**REGISTER HERE:**



<https://na.eventscloud.com/aila2020mrc>

**CLE Credit:** Up to 13.75 CLE hours available, 1.0 of which is for professional responsibility. The conference will be seeking CLE credit for the following states: IL, IN, CA, MN, OH, TX, WI. Registrants from other states requiring CLE credit should contact CLE Committee Chair Jeffrey Cohn ([jeff@alkolalaw.com](mailto:jeff@alkolalaw.com)) to make arrangements.

#### Registration Fees Information

AILA Chicago Chapter Member (or Member's Paralegal)	\$410
Any other AILA Member (or Member's Paralegal)	\$435
Nonmember <sup>1</sup>	\$505
Law Student <sup>2</sup> or Representative of Accredited Non-Profit Organization <sup>1&amp;3</sup>	\$230

*Register 4 members from your firm and receive a 5th free registration!*

**Registration will close at 11:59PM on October 7, 2020. All materials will be distributed electronically. No printed materials will be provided.** Absolutely no late registrations will be accepted, and no payments or registrations will be accepted the day of the conference. No phone, fax, or mail registrations will be accepted. A hardship waiver is available, and the hardship waiver policy is available at: <https://ailachicago.org/conferences/>.

The American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) is the national association of over 15,000 attorneys and law professors who practice and teach immigration law. AILA Member attorneys represent U.S. families seeking permanent residence for close family members, as well as U.S. businesses seeking talent from the global marketplace. AILA Members also represent foreign students, entertainers, athletes, and asylum seekers, often on a pro bono basis. 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.

<sup>1</sup>**Attention Non-AILA Members:** AILA will not accept conference registrations from persons who provide representation without authorization in violation of 8 C.F.R. sec. 292 such as for profit 'immigration consultants' and 'notarios.'

<sup>2</sup> Requires signed statement from accredited law school certifying full-time student status.

<sup>3</sup> Requires signed statement from accredited non-profit organization certifying full-time employment.

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**\*\*All Times Indicated Below are Central Standard Time\*\***

## MORNING PLENARY SESSION

9:00

### Hot Topics

- **Michael Jarecki** (DL), AILA Board of Governors, Chicago, IL
- **Benjamin Johnson**, AILA Executive Director, Washington, DC
- **Marketa Lindt**, AILA National Past President, Chicago, IL
- **Beth Werlin**, Executive Director, American Immigration Council, Washington, D.C.

9:45

### National Impact Litigation Update

An update on class action lawsuits and impact litigation nationwide, including D/S Accrual of Unlawful Presence; new asylum standards & CFI/RFI delays; H-1B off-site employment; detention post-*Jennings*; TPS and more.

- **Jesse Bless** (DL), AILA National, Washington, D.C.
- **Bradley Baniyas**, Burke, VA
- **Chuck Roth**, National Immigrant Justice Center, Director of Appellate Litigation, Chicago, IL
- **Claudia Valenzuela**, American Immigration Council, Chicago, IL

10:30

## BREAK

10:45

### Understanding the Impact of Cannabis Legalization

Understanding prohibited activities under the Controlled Substances Act- how removed from state legal activities must your client be? Impacts to cases in adjustment, consular, nonimmigrant and border contexts.

- **Jeff Joseph** (DL), Denver, CO
- **Heather Segal**, Toronto, Canada
- **Zachary Nightingale**, San Francisco, CA

11:30

### Ethics: How to Manage Your Practice Under Challenging Conditions

Challenging times can bring to light the need to update your practice. Best practices for firm and process modernization, including considerations of legal tech, outsourcing and staying competitive in a tough hiring market.

- **Melissa Chavin**, (DL), London, UK
- **Melissa Smart**, Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission, Chicago, IL
- **Michele Madera**, Philadelphia, PA
- **Allen Orr**, AILA First Vice President, Washington D.C.

## LUNCH BREAK

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12:30-  
1:15PM

1:15PM

2:15PM

EMPLOYMENT TRACK	FAMILY/HUMANITARIAN TRACK	LITIGATION TRACK
<p><b>H-1B Updates</b> New registration system and process; trends in RFEs and denials; changing status from F to H; consulting company issues and preparing for litigation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Dagmar Butte</b> (DL), Portland, OR</li> <li>● <b>Robert Cohen</b>, Columbus, OH</li> <li>● <b>Grant Sovern</b>, Madison, WI</li> <li>● <b>Gretchen Ekerdt</b>, Chicago, IL</li> </ul>	<p><b>U Visa Adjudication Trends</b> Latest in issues in adjustment context, issuance of NTAs after denial, and weighing appeal options. Review of when mandamus and litigation are good strategies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Elisabeth Carlson</b> (DL), Chicago, IL</li> <li>● <b>Bradley Banias</b>, Burke, VA</li> <li>● <b>Karen Crawford</b>, Austin, TX</li> </ul>	<p><b>When is it Time to Sue?</b> When is a case appropriate for mandamus, petition for naturalization, or APA action? A discussion on filing and services, and what to expect after you file.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Kate Goettel</b> (DL), Chicago, IL</li> <li>● <b>Jesse Bless</b>, Washington, D.C.</li> <li>● <b>Lauren McClure</b>, Chicago, IL</li> </ul>
<p><b>Top DOL Issues in 2020</b> Issues and trends in DOL practice, including the FLAG system, BALCA, PERM and Audits.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Bob White</b> (DL), Chicago, IL</li> <li>● <b>Sarah Peterson</b>, Minneapolis, MN</li> <li>● <b>Vince Lau</b>, Boston, MA</li> </ul>	<p><b>Issues in Adoption, Surrogacy, and ART</b> Basics of surrogacy and ART issues in immigration processes; Issue spotting in Hague &amp; non-Hague adoptions; Acquisition of citizenship issues and N-600 tips.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Irene Steffas</b> (DL), Marietta, GA</li> <li>● <b>Scott Titshaw</b>, Macon, GA</li> <li>● <b>Tiffany Markee</b>, San Diego, CA</li> </ul>	<p><b>Reversible Errors: Filing Petitions for Review</b> Limits of appropriate issues for review; Standards of Review; Mechanics of filing and Service; What to expect after you file</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Tania Linares-Garcia</b> (DL), Chicago, IL</li> <li>● <b>Maris Liss</b>, Farmington Hills, MI</li> <li>● <b>Amy Prokop Lenhert</b>, Los Angeles, CA</li> </ul>

3:15 -  
3:30PM

**BREAK**



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3:30PM

## Representing the Outstanding and Unusual

Advanced discussion of complex agency issues for O and P, including changes in itinerary, adding events and employers. Pros and cons of using Schedule A Group II. Issues with transitions from nonimmigrant to immigrant.

- **Fiona McEntee (DL)**, Chicago, IL
- **Neena Dutta**, New York, NY
- **Ksenia Maiorova**, Orlando, FL

## Special Immigrant Juvenile Status: Protection for Vulnerable Children

Policy developments: proposed regs, AAO decisions; From I-360 to AOS: backlogs and admissibility issues; Options for relief from Removal; SIJS in Illinois

- **Hillary Richardson (DL)**, Chicago, IL
- **Dalia Castillo-Granados**, Houston, TX
- **Pamela Florian**, Tucson, AZ

## What's Going On: Updates on BIA/AG and Federal Court Decisions

*Matter of Thomas and Thompson* (broadening conviction and sentences for immigration purposes); *Matter of Castillo-Perez* (expansion of CIMT bars); Nationwide challenges to *Pereira* and progeny and *Castro-Tum*; Late breaking cases

- **Davorin Odrdic (DL)**, Milwaukee, WI
- **Ben Winograd**, Alexandria, VA
- **James Fujimoto**, Chicago, IL

4:15PM

## Timing is Everything

Strategies for retrogression in unexpected categories, harnessing 245(k) in the era of the interview, limitations on portability and the 240 day rule, grace periods and retention of priority dates

- **Turid Owren (DL)**, Portland, OR
- **Diana Bauerle**, Washington D.C.
- **Robin O'Donoghue**, Cambridge, MA
- **Steve Navarre**, Chicago, IL

## Advising on Naturalization

Changing considerations in the current environment; Marriage fraud allegations at N-400 stage; Denaturalization efforts; New policies affecting members of the military and their families

- **Raymond Bolourtchi (DL)**, St. Louis, MO
- **Heather Prendergast**, Cleveland, OH
- **Margaret Stock**, Anchorage, AK
- **Kathrin Mautino**, San Diego, CA

## I Fought the Law and I Won: Challenging ICE ERO

Challenging expedited removal and reinstatement orders; What to include in stays of removal and fighting denials; Parole requests and alternatives to detention; Strategies to gain additional time on orders of supervision

- **Saadia Siddique (DL)**, Chicago, IL
- **Lauren Anselowitz**, Newark, NJ
- **Sabrina Damast**, Los Angeles, CA

5:00 PM

**Close of Conference**



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## Thank you to our Conference Planning Committee:

Kathleen M. Vannucci, *Chair*  
Ian Wagreich, *Vice Chair – Employment*  
Kevin Raica, *Vice Chair - Family/Litigation*

Jenny Ansay	Beata Leja
Mahdis Azimi	KiKi Mosley
Victoria Carmona	Stephen Navarre
Kevin Dixler	Olga Rojas
Gretchen Ekerdt	Hillary Richardson
Marisol Gallegos	Yllka Seseri
Michael Jarecki	Saadia Siddique
Rachel Kao	Laura Vilim
Matthew Kriezelman	Bob White
Eric Ledbetter	

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## A Special Thank You to Our Sponsors:

\*Evaluation Service, Inc.\*    \*LawLogix\*

\*Minnesota Mutual\*    \*eIMMIGRATIONAIR\*    \*Capital Good Fund\*

\*Bail Hotline\*

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### Notices:

All registrations are subject to acceptance. Registration date is determined by date payment is received. Registrations received without payment will not be honored. In the event the Conference nears capacity, registrations with payment will be accepted in the order received. Registrations are not transferable and cannot be split among conference attendees. Any and all liability of AILA Chicago with respect to registration, reservations, cancellations, and refunds is limited to a sum no greater than the fee paid. Submission of registration and payment constitutes acceptance of conditions herein.



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Cancellation Policy: Cancellations received by October 8, 2020, entitle registrants to a full refund less a \$50.00 processing fee. All cancellation requests must be received in writing. No cancellation requests will be accepted after this date, but registrants may still receive conference materials electronically.