



2022 Midwest Regional Conference

Friday, March 11, 2022 ◦ 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, March 11, 2022**. The conference will cover hot topics in immigration law, including litigation, employment and family immigration issues, naturalization, and more.

Conference Chair: Elizabeth Rompf Bruen

Conference Vice-Chairs: Bob White, Kevin Raica, and Laura Vilim

Friday, March 11, 2022

8:30 AM to 5:00 PM

REGISTER HERE:

<https://na.eventscloud.com/ailamrc2022>



CLE Credit: 14.75 CLE hours, 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 Ivonne Figueroa-Campos (ifigueroa@ahlgrenlaw.com) to make arrangements.

Registration Fees Information

| | |
|---|-------|
| AILA Chicago Chapter Member (or Member's Paralegal) | \$360 |
| Any other AILA Member (or Member's Paralegal) | \$385 |
| Nonmember ¹ | \$460 |
| Law Student ² or Representative of Accredited Non-Profit Organization ^{1&3} | \$170 |

Registration will close at 11:59 PM on March 9, 2022. All materials will be distributed electronically prior to the conference. 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.

¹**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.'

² Requires signed statement from accredited law school certifying full-time student status.

³ Requires signed statement from accredited non-profit organization certifying full-time employment.



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OPENING REMARKS OF THE AILA CHICAGO CHAPTER CHAIR

Kathleen Vannucci, Chicago, IL

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

| MORNING PLENARY SESSION | |
|-------------------------|--|
| 8:30AM | <p>Hot Topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kathleen Vannucci, (DL), AILA Chicago Chapter Chair, Chicago, IL • Benjamin Johnson, AILA Executive Director, Washington, D.C. • Jeremy Robbins, Executive Director, American Immigration Council, Washington, D.C. • Allen Orr, AILA National President, Washington, D.C. |
| 9:15AM | BREAK |
| 9:30AM | <p>National Impact Litigation Update</p> <p>An update on class action lawsuits and impact litigation nationwide, including regional travel bans; NIV and IV adjudication delays; H-4/L-2 extension and EAD delays; H-1B issues; and more.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kate Melloy Goettel, (DL), Legal Director of Litigation, American Immigration Council, Chicago, IL (AILA says location is Washington, D.C.) • Jesse Bless, AILA National High Impact Litigation Committee, Charleston, SC • Charles Kuck, AILA National High Impact Litigation Committee, Atlanta, GA • Scott Pollock, AILA National High Impact Litigation Committee, Chicago, IL (<i>Invited</i>) |
| 10:15AM | BREAK |
| 10:30AM | <p>Intergovernmental Panel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nell Barker, (DL), Immediate Past Chair, AILA Chicago Chapter; Vice Chair, AILA National CBP Office of Field Operations Liaison Committee, Chicago, IL • Matt Kriezelman, Treasurer, AILA Chicago Chapter Executive Board; AILA National High Impact Litigation Committee, Chicago, IL • Matthew S. Davies, Executive Director, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Washington, D.C. • Sheila McNulty, Regional Deputy Chief Immigration Judge, Office of the Chief Immigration Judge, Executive Office of Immigration Review, Chicago, IL • Jennifer Peyton, Assistant Chief Immigration Judge, Executive Office of Immigration Review, Chicago, IL • Mick Dedvukaj, USCIS District Director, Chicago, IL (<i>Invited</i>) • Ken Madsen, Asylum Office, Chicago, IL (<i>Invited</i>) <p><i>Invitations to participate are also pending with Immigration Customs Enforcement and the Department of Labor.</i></p> |



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| 11:30AM | BREAK |
| 11:45PM | <p>Ethics: Year Three Approaches - COVID, Mental Health, and the Legal Profession As we enter the third year of the COVID pandemic this panel will provide suggestions for identifying and addressing pandemic related mental health issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charity Anastasio, (DL), AILA National Practice and Professionalism Center and Innovation, Practice and Ethics Counsel, Washington, D.C. • Dr. Diana Uchiyama, Executive Director, Lawyers' Assistance Program, Chicago, IL <i>(Invited)</i> • Magali Suarez Candler, AILA National Lawyer Well-Being Committee, Houston, TX <i>(Invited)</i> |

12:45-
1:15PM

LUNCH BREAK

| | EMPLOYMENT TRACK | FAMILY/HUMANITARIAN TRACK | LITIGATION TRACK |
|--------|--|--|---|
| 1:15PM | <p>DOL PERM/LCA/H-2B Update DOL processing times; implementation of new 9089 and 9141 forms; PERM recruitment and Facebook settlement; LCA Wage and Hour Investigations; and managing the H-2B quota.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vince Lau, (DL), AILA DOL Committee Chair, Boston MA • Josiah Curtis, AILA DOL Committee, Boston, MA • Kevin Lashus, AILA DOL Committee, Austin, TX | <p>Maintaining Permanent Residency after Extended Stays Abroad Reentry permits, I-407 applications, maintaining residency, and returning resident visas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marta Delgado, (DL), Chicago, IL • Steven Heller, AILA DOS Committee, East Sussex, Great Britain and New York, NY • Mahsa Khanbabai, DOS Committee, Board of Governors, Easton, MA | <p>(Just Like) Starting Over: Niz-Chavez, termination, and cancellation of removal Post Niz-Chavez case developments; strategies on when to ask for termination; ICE and IJ responses and resistance; and documenting cancellation claims.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • William Quiceno, (DL), Chicago, IL • Trina Realmuto, Brookline, MA • Michelle Mendez, Washington, D.C. <i>(Invited)</i> |



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2:15PM

Physicians and Allied Health Care Workers

Wage issues; Conrad 30 and other waivers; PNIW and PERM for physicians; and challenges with Schedule occupations.

- **Khorzad Mehta**, (DL), Owings Mills, MD
- **Adam Cohen**, Memphis, TN
- **Kristen Harris**, Chicago, IL

Solving the Parole Puzzle

Parole in Place, Advance Parole for TPS/DACA, U visa parole, humanitarian, and parole in proceedings.

- **Ivonne Figueroa Castro**, (DL), Chicago, IL
- **Spojmie Nasiri**, Pleasanton, CA
- **Ana Maria Schwartz**, Houston, TX
- **Margaret Stock**, Anchorage, AK

Stuck in a Moment You Can't Get Out Of: Prosecutorial discretion and administrative claims

How, when, and why to ask for prosecutorial discretion; follow up with ICE; and what to do when ICE doesn't respond or declines.

- **Kendra Scheuerlein** (DL), Chicago, IL
- **Sui Chung**, Miami, FL
- **John Gihon**, Altamonte Springs, FL
- **Michelle Saenz-Rodriguez**, Dallas, TX

3:15 -
3:30PM

BREAK

3:30PM

Expediting Entrepreneurs

IEP, E-2, O-1 and permanent residency options for entrepreneurs.

- **Fiona McEntee**, (DL), Chicago, IL
- **Sophie Alcorn**, AILA Innovation and Technology Committee, Mountain View, CA
- **Tahmina Watson**, Seattle, WA

Complex Inadmissibility and Deportability Issues in Adjustment of Status Cases

Update on USCIS policies regarding the 3/10-year bar and I-601 waivers; USCIS response to 7th Circuit decisions on convictions for possession of a controlled substance; and discretionary denials based on criminal history.

- **Lisa Chun**, (DL), Chicago, IL
- **Sabrina Damast**, Los Angeles, CA
- **Aaron Lawee**, Chicago, IL
- **Jacob Briskman**, Chicago, IL (Invited)

What's Going On: Circuit Court, BIA, and Attorney General updates

Updates on recent Attorney General decisions, BIA precedent decisions, and select Circuit Court decisions

- **James Fujimoto** (DL), Chicago, IL
- **Jeremy L. McKinney**, AILA National President-Elect, Greensboro, NC
- **Kevin Gregg**, Paso Robles, CA
- **Alicia Triche**, AILA National Federal Court Litigation Section Steering Committee, Memphis, TN



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Tips, Tricks and Pitfalls in Current Consular Processing

Managing backlogs, forum shopping, COVID restrictions, and expedited processing.

- **Mercedes Badia Tavas**, (DL), AILA DOS Committee, Chicago, IL
- **Nita Upadhye**, London, Great Britain
- **Alexis Axelrad**, AILA Secretary, New York City, NY
- **Sandra Sheridan Reguerin**, AILA DOS Committee, Phoenix, AZ

Challenges in U Visa Adjudications

“Creating a Victim” denial policies at USCIS; appeals/motions to reopen/derivative applications; and discretionary denials during Adjustment of Status after Form I-192 approval.

- **Amina Najib**, (DL), Chicago, IL
- **Timothy Fallon**, New York City, NY
- **Angelica Gonzalez-Lopez**, Chicago, IL (*Invited*)
- **Elizabeth Murrar**, Milwaukee, IL (*Invited*)

Don't Stand So Close to Me: Practice in a Virtual World

How to prepare and present yourself online or by phone; preparing and presenting witnesses from your office or their own location; presenting and referencing evidence; and how to decide/request in-person versus online or by phone.

- **Juan Camilo Parrado**, (DL), Chicago, IL
- **Susan Girardo Roy**, Princeton Junction, NJ
- **Rex Chen**, AILA National Federal Court Litigation Section Steering Committee, New York City, NY

5:00PM **Close of Conference**



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Thank you to our Conference Planning Committee:

Elizabeth Rompf Bruen, *Chair*
Kevin Raica, *Vice Chair - Litigation*
Bob White, *Vice Chair - Employment*
Laura Vilim, *Vice Chair - Family*

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Audrey Lustgarten | Jenny Grobelski |
| Davina Campos | Mahdis Azimi |
| Vanessa Esparza-Lopez | Afshan Khan |
| Hillary Richardson | Lauren McClure |
| Lee Vanderlinden | Rachel Kao |
| Tristan Gunn | Tejas Shah |
| Marjorie Baltazar | Samera Ludwig |
| Tu Castillo | Ian Wagreich |
| Victoria Carmona | Sofia Zneimer |
| Christina Coleman | Bethany Hoffmann |

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.

Cancellation Policy: Cancellations received by March 1, 2022, 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.