

petition letter sample for immigration

Petition Letter Sample for Immigration

When navigating the complex process of immigration, a well-crafted petition letter can significantly influence the outcome of your application. A petition letter sample for immigration serves as a vital document that helps clearly communicate your purpose, eligibility, and support your case with relevant details. Whether you're sponsoring a family member, applying for a work visa, or seeking asylum, understanding how to structure your petition letter is essential. This guide provides comprehensive insights into creating an effective petition letter, complete with sample templates, tips, and best practices to enhance your chances of success.

Understanding the Purpose of a Petition Letter for Immigration

A petition letter for immigration is a formal document submitted to immigration authorities, such as USCIS (United States Citizenship and Immigration Services) or equivalent agencies in other countries. It aims to:

Communicate Intent and Eligibility

- Clearly state the purpose of the petition (e.g., family reunification, employment, asylum).
- Demonstrate the petitioner's eligibility and qualifications based on legal criteria.

Provide Supporting Information

- Include factual details about the petitioner and beneficiary.
- Attach necessary evidence, such as identification, relationship proof, employment verification, etc.

Request Consideration

- Formally request the approval of the immigration application.
- Highlight the importance of the case and any humanitarian considerations if applicable.

Key Components of an Effective Petition Letter for Immigration

A compelling petition letter should be structured systematically. Below are the essential components:

1. Heading and Salutation

- Use formal letterhead if available.
- Address the letter to the appropriate immigration officer or department.
- Example: "To Whom It May Concern," or "Dear Immigration Officer,"

2. Introduction of the Petitioner and Beneficiary

- State full names, dates of birth, and relationship.
- Mention citizenship or immigration status.
- Briefly describe the purpose of the petition.

3. Statement of Purpose

- Clearly articulate why you are submitting the petition.
- Reference the specific visa category or immigration program.

4. Supporting Evidence and Details

- Summarize key supporting documents attached.
- Provide relevant facts, such as:
 - Duration and nature of relationship.
 - Employment details if applicable.
 - Any prior immigration history.

5. Legal and Personal Justifications

- Explain why the petition should be approved.
- Highlight humanitarian, familial, or employment-related reasons.

6. Closing and Signature

- Restate the request politely.
- Include contact information.
- Sign the letter.

Sample Petition Letter for Immigration

Below is a comprehensive sample template for a family-based immigration petition:

``plaintext
[Your Name]
[Your Address]
[City, State, ZIP Code]
[Email Address]
[Phone Number]
[Date]

United States Citizenship and Immigration Services
[Address of the relevant USCIS office or service center]

Subject: Petition for Immigration of [Beneficiary's Full Name]

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to formally petition for the immigration of my [relation], [Beneficiary's Full Name], born on [date of birth], currently residing at [beneficiary's address]. I am a lawful [citizenship status, e.g., U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident], and I am sponsoring [him/her/them] for lawful permanent residence in the United States.

I have maintained a close familial relationship with [Beneficiary's Name] since [date or duration], and I am confident that [he/she/they] meet the eligibility criteria under [specify visa category, e.g., immediate relative, family preference].

Please find attached the necessary supporting documents, including:

- Proof of my U.S. citizenship/lawful permanent residence.
- Evidence establishing the familial relationship (birth certificates, marriage certificates, etc.).
- Financial documents demonstrating my ability to support the beneficiary.
- Any additional documentation required by the immigration authorities.

I kindly request that you process this petition favorably, allowing [Beneficiary's Name] to join me in the United States and contribute positively to our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at [phone number] or [email address].

Sincerely,

[Your Signature]
[Your Full Name]

[Your Immigration Status]

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Tips for Writing an Effective Petition Letter for Immigration

Creating a persuasive and well-organized petition letter can make a significant difference. Here are some expert tips:

1. Be Clear and Concise

- Use simple language.
- Avoid unnecessary jargon or overly complicated sentences.

2. Use a Formal Tone

- Maintain professionalism throughout.
- Avoid colloquialisms or casual language.

3. Include Accurate and Complete Information

- Double-check names, dates, and details.
- Ensure all supporting documents are current and authentic.

4. Personalize the Letter

- Tailor the content specifically to your case.
- Include personal anecdotes or relevant circumstances if appropriate.

5. Attach All Necessary Supporting Documents

- Follow the specific requirements outlined by the immigration authority.
- Use a checklist to ensure nothing is omitted.

6. Proofread and Edit

- Check for grammatical errors and typos.
- Have a trusted third party review the letter for clarity and accuracy.

Additional Resources and Templates

To simplify the process, consider utilizing available templates and resources:

- [USCIS Official Forms and Instructions](#)
- [Sample Immigration Petition Letters](#)
- [Guide to Different Immigration Forms](#)

Having access to templates can help ensure your petition includes all necessary components and adheres to official standards.

Common Mistakes to Avoid in Petition Letters

To enhance your petition's effectiveness, steer clear of these pitfalls:

1. **Vague or Ambiguous Language:** Be specific and precise.
2. **Omitting Supporting Documents:** Ensure all required evidence is included.
3. **Providing False or Misleading Information:** Always be truthful and accurate.
4. **Ignoring Instructions:** Follow all guidelines provided by the immigration authority.
5. **Delaying Submission of the Petition:** Submit well before deadlines.

Conclusion

A well-structured and compelling petition letter sample for immigration can significantly impact the success of your application. By clearly outlining your purpose, providing supporting evidence, maintaining a professional tone, and avoiding common mistakes, you enhance your chances of a favorable

decision. Remember, every case is unique, so customize your letter accordingly and seek legal advice if necessary. Proper preparation and attention to detail can make the immigration process smoother and more efficient, bringing you closer to your goal of building a new life in your desired country.

Disclaimer: This content is for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. For specific cases, consult with a qualified immigration attorney or official immigration resources.

Frequently Asked Questions

What should be included in a petition letter sample for immigration?

A comprehensive petition letter should include the purpose of the petition, details about the petitioner and beneficiary, supporting evidence or reasons for the request, and a clear conclusion. It should be concise, respectful, and well-organized.

Where can I find a free petition letter sample for immigration?

You can find free petition letter samples on official government websites, legal aid organizations, and reputable immigration forums. Many legal resources and immigration advocacy groups provide templates and sample letters to guide applicants.

How should I format a petition letter for immigration?

Format your petition letter with a proper header including your contact information, a formal salutation, a clear body explaining your request, supporting details, and a respectful closing. Use professional language and ensure the letter is free of errors.

Can I customize a petition letter sample for my specific immigration case?

Yes, petition letter samples are templates meant to be personalized. Tailor the content to reflect your unique circumstances, supporting documents, and specific reasons for your immigration request to make the letter effective.

What are common mistakes to avoid in a petition letter for immigration?

Common mistakes include providing inaccurate information, being too vague or generic, neglecting to include supporting documents, using informal language, and failing to proofread for errors. Clarity and accuracy are crucial.

How long should a petition letter for immigration be?

A petition letter should be concise yet detailed enough to cover all necessary information. Typically, 1 to 2 pages is sufficient, focusing on key points without unnecessary elaboration to maintain the reader's engagement.

Additional Resources

Petition Letter Sample for Immigration is an essential document that plays a pivotal role in the immigration process. Whether you're sponsoring a family member, applying for a work visa, or seeking permanent residency, a well-crafted petition letter can significantly influence the outcome of your application. This article provides an in-depth review of petition letter samples for immigration, highlighting their importance, structure, key components, and practical tips to create an effective and persuasive document.

Understanding the Significance of a Petition Letter in Immigration Processes

A petition letter serves as a formal request to immigration authorities, advocating for the approval of an individual's application based on specific grounds. It acts as a personal appeal that complements supporting documentation, offering context, motivation, and clarification that might not be fully captured elsewhere.

Why is a petition letter important?

- Personalizes the application: It introduces the applicant and the petitioner, establishing a human connection.
- Clarifies intentions: Explains the purpose of the petition, whether for family reunification, employment, or asylum.
- Highlights eligibility: Emphasizes the qualifying aspects that meet immigration criteria.
- Provides context: Addresses any special circumstances or concerns that official forms may not cover.

Features of an effective petition letter:

- Clear, concise language
- Formal tone and respectful language
- Logical structure with organized paragraphs
- Accurate and truthful information
- Proper formatting and professional presentation

Key Components of a Petition Letter Sample for Immigration

A well-structured petition letter typically contains several critical elements to ensure clarity and effectiveness.

1. Heading and Salutation

- Use official letterhead if available.
- Address the letter to the appropriate immigration authority or officer.
- Use formal salutations such as "Dear Sir/Madam" or specific names if known.

2. Introduction of the Petitioner and Beneficiary

- Clearly state who is writing the letter (the petitioner) and whom it concerns (the beneficiary).
- Include full names, relationships, and relevant identification numbers.

3. Purpose of the Letter

- Explicitly state the reason for writing.
- Example: "I am writing to support the immigration petition for my spouse, [Name], to obtain permanent residency in [Country]."

4. Explanation of Relationship or Eligibility

- Describe the nature of the relationship (e.g., marriage, parent-child, employer-employee).
- Provide evidence or reference supporting documents.

5. Personal Statement and Supporting Facts

- Share pertinent details about the applicant's background.
- Highlight reasons for their eligibility.
- Address any potential concerns or special circumstances.

6. Affirmation of Support and Commitment

- Express willingness to provide additional information or assistance.
- Confirm understanding of legal obligations.

7. Closing and Signature

- End with a respectful closing statement.
- Include the signature, date, and contact information.

Sample Petition Letter for Immigration

Below is a comprehensive sample to illustrate the typical structure and language used in a petition letter for immigration purposes.

[Your Name]
[Your Address]
[City, State, ZIP Code]
[Email Address]
[Phone Number]
[Date]

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to formally support the immigration petition of my spouse, [Spouse's Full Name], for permanent residency in [Country]. My name is [Your Full Name], and I am a [Your Immigration Status or Title] residing at [Your Address].

Introduction of Petitioner and Beneficiary

I am a citizen/permanent resident of [Country], and I have been married to [Spouse's Name] since [Date of Marriage]. Our relationship is genuine and enduring, and I am committed to supporting [Spouse's Name] during this

immigration process.

Purpose of the Letter

The purpose of this letter is to attest to the authenticity of our relationship and to advocate for the approval of [Spouse's Name]'s application for lawful permanent residence in [Country].

Relationship and Eligibility Explanation

[Spouse's Name] and I met in [Year], and after a period of courtship, we married in [Location] on [Date]. Enclosed are copies of our marriage certificate, photographs, and correspondence that substantiate the sincerity of our relationship. [Optional: mention any joint financial responsibilities, shared assets, or children.]

Supporting Facts and Personal Statement

[Spouse's Name] is a person of good moral character, with a strong work ethic and a genuine desire to contribute positively to our community. They possess skills in [mention skills or profession], and have been employed at [Company/Organization] since [Date]. Their presence in [Country] will not only strengthen our family but also benefit the local economy and society.

We have faced challenges during this process, especially due to [any specific circumstances, e.g., long-distance relationship, COVID-19 travel restrictions], but our commitment remains unwavering. We have maintained regular contact and have built a life together despite these obstacles.

Affirmation of Support

I affirm my full support for [Spouse's Name]'s application and am willing to provide any additional documents or information required by the authorities. I understand the legal responsibilities involved and assure that all information provided herein is truthful.

Conclusion

Thank you for your time and consideration. We sincerely hope for a favorable decision that will allow us to reunite and continue building our life together.

Sincerely,

[Your Signature]

[Your Name]

[Your Contact Information]

Tips for Crafting an Effective Petition Letter for Immigration

1. Be Honest and Accurate

- Never exaggerate or provide false information.
- Ensure all facts are verifiable and consistent with supporting documents.

2. Personalize the Letter

- Tailor the content to reflect your unique circumstances.
- Use specific details that demonstrate authenticity.

3. Use Clear and Formal Language

- Maintain a respectful and professional tone.
- Avoid slang, jargon, or overly casual language.

4. Keep it Concise but Comprehensive

- Cover all necessary points without unnecessary verbosity.
- Focus on quality over quantity.

5. Proofread and Edit

- Check for grammatical errors, typos, and clarity.
- Consider having someone else review it for objectivity.

6. Include Supporting Documents

- Reference attached evidence such as marriage certificates, photographs, financial statements, or employment letters.

Pros and Cons of Using a Petition Letter Sample for Immigration

Pros:

- Guidance: Provides a clear framework for drafting your own letter.
- Time-saving: Speeds up the writing process by offering a tested format.
- Consistency: Ensures inclusion of all necessary components.
- Persuasiveness: Helps craft a compelling narrative to support the application.

Cons:

- Lack of Personalization: Over-reliance on samples may lead to generic letters lacking personal touch.
- Misuse: Copying without modification might result in a less authentic or inappropriate letter.
- Legal Nuance: May not cover specific legal requirements unique to individual cases.
- Potential for Errors: Using a template without careful review can introduce mistakes.

Conclusion: Crafting a Strong Petition Letter for Immigration

A well-written petition letter sample for immigration serves as a crucial tool to effectively communicate your case to immigration officials. While templates can serve as valuable guides, it is essential to customize each letter to accurately reflect your unique situation, relationship, and intentions. A compelling, honest, and well-structured petition letter can significantly enhance your chances of success by providing the authorities with a clear understanding of your genuine circumstances and commitment.

Remember, the key to an effective petition letter is sincerity combined with professionalism. Invest the necessary time to craft a thoughtful document, support it with appropriate evidence, and adhere to formal standards. Doing so not only demonstrates your respect for the process but also maximizes your chances of a positive outcome in your immigration journey.

[Petition Letter Sample For Immigration](#)

petition letter sample for immigration: *Fiance and Marriage Visas* Ilona Bray, 2022-08-05
The book that's helped thousands of couples live in the U.S. together You're engaged or married to a U.S. citizen or permanent resident, and all you want is the right to be together in the United States. Should be simple, right? It's not. The pile of application forms can be overwhelming, the bureaucracy isn't helpful, and delays are inevitable. This book will help you succeed. Discover the fastest and best application strategy. Avoid common—and serious—mistakes. Prepare for meetings with officials. Prove your marriage is real—not a fraud. Deal with the two-year testing period for new marriages. The 11th edition covers the latest, higher income requirements, easing of Trump-era regulations that put more immigrants at risk of being denied visas as a likely “public charge,” and a new COVID vaccine requirement. It also provides handy checklists and illustrative sample forms. Use this book if you are living in the United States or overseas and: your fiancé is a U.S. citizen your spouse is a U.S. citizen, or your spouse is a U.S. permanent resident. Ilona Bray began practicing immigration law because of her concern with international human rights issues. She is the author of

Becoming a U.S. Citizen and U.S. Immigration Made Easy, both published by Nolo. Check out her immigration-related postings on Nolo's blog.

petition letter sample for immigration: Immigration Procedures Handbook , 2008

petition letter sample for immigration: Surviving the Life of an Immigrant in New York City Rosemarie Espiritu-Parreno, 2016-05-18 Sharing ones true-to-life experiences as an immigrant in a foreign country requires reminiscing happy and sad memories. These events teach a person lessons of survival and adjustment to new culture and environment. As a foreigner, when faced with difficult and challenging situations, changes occur in ones self. Interaction with other countries and nationalities turns an immigrant into a multicultural individual. As a result, immersion with other cultures makes an immigrant adapt to the changes in society in order to survive. Surviving the Life of an Immigrant in New York City is a true-to-life experience of an immigrant. This book serves as an eye-opener to newcomers in a foreign land on how to survive lifes challenges in a new environment. Each part will make readers discover the problems and solutions of an immigrants trials with living in a big city. Specifically, readers will accept that success and failures of an immigrant are steps in learning and achieving ones dream. Finally, the immigrants rewards of achievements validate the worlds important contribution to humanity. It is about taking risks and also embracing challenges when they test ones life and career. Also, it is being unique with a persons own culture and values compared to the worlds multiethnic background. It is with regard to being courageous as one discovers the unknown facts of life. It is the experience of getting lost and, later, realizing where the right path leads. Significantly, the wholeness of life as an immigrant is interesting, because what one does not know is now opening brightly in the future. Lastly, browse through the pages of this book and imagine the smiles and tears about what an immigrant had undergone in the past and in the present.

petition letter sample for immigration: Immigration Made Simple Barbara Brooks Kimmel, Alan M. Lubiner, 2002-11 Presents information and sample forms on the U.S. immigration process, covering such areas as the Visa Waiver Program, the INSPASS System, Green Card renewal, and naturalization, and includes a directory of immigration lawyers and other practical resources.

petition letter sample for immigration: *U. S. Immigration Made Easy* Ilona Bray, 2025-03-25 A guide to nearly every available option for immigrating to the United States or coming for a temporary stay, including legal options and procedural steps. For anyone seeking to not only understand opportunities for U.S. visas and green cards, but how to submit a successful application without making legal errors or running into excessive delays.

petition letter sample for immigration: *Chinese Student Migration and Selective Citizenship* Lisong Liu, 2015-08-20 Since China began its open-door and reform policies in 1978, more than three million Chinese students have migrated to study abroad, and the United States has been their top destination. The recent surge of students following this pattern, along with the rising tide of Chinese middle- and upper-classes' emigration out of China, have aroused wide public and scholarly attention in both China and the US. This book examines the four waves of Chinese student migration to the US since the late 1970s, showing how they were shaped by the profound changes in both nations and by US-China relations. It discusses how student migrants with high socioeconomic status transformed Chinese American communities and challenged American immigration laws and race relations. The book suggests that the rise of China has not negated the deeply rooted American dream that has been constantly reinvented in contemporary China. It also addresses the theme of selective citizenship - a way in which migrants seek to claim their autonomy - proposing that this notion captures the selective nature on both ends of the negotiations between nation-states and migrants. It cautions against a universal or idealized dual citizenship model, which has often been celebrated as a reflection of eroding national boundaries under globalization. This book draws on a wide variety of sources in Chinese and English, as well as extensive fieldwork in both China and the US, and its historical perspective sheds new light on contemporary Chinese student migration and post-1965 Chinese American community. Bridging the gap between Asian and Asian American

studies, the book also integrates the studies of migration, education, and international relations. Therefore, it will be of interest to students of these fields, as well as Chinese history and Asian American history more generally.

petition letter sample for immigration: Handling Immigration Cases Bill Ong Hing, 1995

petition letter sample for immigration: *Immigration Law and the Family* Sarah Ignatius, Elisabeth S. Stickney, 1995

petition letter sample for immigration: **Congressional Record** United States. Congress, 1919 The Congressional Record is the official record of the proceedings and debates of the United States Congress. It is published daily when Congress is in session. The Congressional Record began publication in 1873. Debates for sessions prior to 1873 are recorded in The Debates and Proceedings in the Congress of the United States (1789-1824), the Register of Debates in Congress (1824-1837), and the Congressional Globe (1833-1873)

petition letter sample for immigration: Congressional Record , 1896

petition letter sample for immigration: Immigration For Everyone! ,

petition letter sample for immigration: **Immigration Manual** Benjamin Anosike, Benji O. Anosike, 2003 Provides information on the basic laws, requirements, and procedures to gain lawful entry into the United States or to remain in the United States.

petition letter sample for immigration: *How to Get a Green Card* Ilona Bray, 2022-07-04 The ultimate green card guide The U.S. immigration system is an enormous bureaucracy, so it's vital that you understand it before attempting to apply for a green card. Making a mistake can lead to delays and hassles or even ruin your chances for success. How to Get a Green Card provides everything you need to know about qualifying for permanent U.S. residence if you don't have an employer sponsoring you. Find out how to work with U.S. officials and prepare and present the right documents at the right time to get a green card through: • parents, siblings, or adult children • a U.S. spouse or fiancé • green card lotteries (diversity visa) • political asylum or refugee status • a U visa for crime victims, or • another category you might qualify for. The 15th edition covers the latest income requirements for family-based green card applicants; the lifting of country-based travel bans; lower procedural hurdles for U visa applicants; the addition of a COVID vaccination requirement; an increase in the number of refugees accepted to the United States; additions to the list of countries whose citizens may obtain Temporary Protected Status; and more.

petition letter sample for immigration: *H-1B Handbook* Steven C. Bell, 2009

petition letter sample for immigration: **Basic Immigration Law** , 1995

petition letter sample for immigration: **Immigration Practice - 15th Edition** Robert C. Divine, 2014-06-01 Immigration Practice guides readers through all aspects of immigration law in one volume, complete with over 3,000 footnote citations to the wide range of statutes, regulations, court and administrative cases, policy memos, operations instructions, agency interpretive letters, and internet sites that a lawyer needs for complete understanding of a particular problem. No other source merges the practical with commentary and analysis so helpfully. The book explains in understandable language and meaningful and dependable detail the substantive issues and the practical procedures a lawyer needs to handle a specific immigration matter, complete with checklists of forms, supporting evidence, and other strategies needed for application/petition packages. The book has unparalleled coherence, integration and consistency. * Liberally cross references to other sections in the book where related topics are discussed (because so many topics are interrelated). * Line-by-line instructions on how to complete the most commonly used forms to avoid embarrassing mistakes. * Lists the contents of packages to file with government agencies: forms and fees, detailed support letters, and other supporting evidence. * Explanations of potentially applicable visa options organized according to the attributes of the foreign national (and the employer), rather than classifications in alphabetical order, so that practitioners can make sense of options in light of the client in the office. * Comparisons and charts of attributes and procedures of such topics as nonimmigrant visa classifications, procedures to permanent residence, and standards of extreme hardship. * Citations throughout the book, and collection in the extensive CD-ROM

Appendix, to primary source materials and the most useful Internet site URLs with explanation of the increasingly helpful free databases and tools available through each one. • Internet Links: Constantly increased and updated links to government web sites containing current contact information, forms, primary law sources of all types, case status information, and processing and substantive guides--all referenced by pinpoint citations in the text. See Chapter 5 explaining sources of law, Appendix C and D-1 showing web links, and the CD-ROM in the back cover providing one-click access! Readers are strongly encouraged to review and use the CD-ROM and to consider saving Appendix C, D-1, and E-1 into their hard drives or saving the links to their internet browser favorites or bookmarks for ready reference all the time. • Upgraded removal-related treatment: significant improvements to Chapters 10, 11, and 16 by attorney who has worked for immigration courts several years. • Supreme Court decisions: effects of limited marijuana distribution offense as aggravated felony (§ 10-6(b)(1)(vi)); tax offenses as aggravated felonies (§ 10-6(b)(1)(vi)); rejection of comparable grounds rule for 212(c) eligibility (§ 10-6(b)(1)(vii)); modified categorical approach applies only to divisible statutes (§ 10-6(b)(2)(i)); non-retroactivity of Padilla decision (§ 10-6(b)(2)(vi)); rejection of the statutory counterpart rule for § 212(c) waivers (§ 11-5(f)); invalidation of the Defense of Marriage Act § 14-7(a)(2)(i); non-imputation to child of firm resettlement of parents (§ 16-4(c)). • Lower federal court decisions: concerning such issues as: recognizing a beneficiary to have standing to challenge a USCIS petition denial (§ 2-2(a)(1)(I)); reviewability of good moral character determinations and other (§ 2-2(a)(1)(I)); court order of USCIS to speed up FOIA certain responses (§ 4-2); CBP FOIA process (§ 4-2); DOL case disclosure data (§ 4-5); need to exhaust remedies under DHS TRIP to challenge inclusion on watch list (§ 10-3); CIMT crime determinations (§ 10-6(b)(1)(iii)); effect of a single firearm sale (§ 10-6(b)(1)(vi)); 212(h) waiver eligibility in regard to post-entry adjustment but not as to stand alone request (§ 10-6(b)(3)); interference with police helicopter using laser light as CIMT (§ 10-6(c)); whether post-entry adjustment is an admission for § 212(h) waivers (§ 10-6(b)(3)); whether there is an involuntariness or duress exception to the terrorism support bar (§ 10-6(c)); enforcement of I-864 financial support obligations (§ 10-6(d)(2)); mandatory bond hearing after six months of detention (§ 11-3(f)); ICE detainers found to lack authority (§ 11-3(g)); representation in immigration court at government expense for aliens with serious mental disabilities (§ 11-4(g)); stop-time and petty offense exceptions relating to cancellation of removal (§ 11-5(f)); revelation of the BIA's erroneous reliance for decades on nonexistent provisions of Mexican Constitution affecting legitimation issues (§ 12-3(d)(3)); rejection of BIA's rule against nunc pro tunc adoption orders (§ 14-7(b)(3)); invalidation of FSBPT efforts to restrict applicants from certain countries to sit for physical therapy exams (§ 15-2(c)(2)); use of impeachment evidence only to terminate asylum (16-2(b)); asylum claims of German homeschoolers, and mixed motive cases (§ 16-4(a)(3)); social group asylum claims (§ 16-4(a)(3)); expansive implications of inconsistencies in testimony (§ 16-4(a)(4)); particularly serious crimes barring asylum claims (§ 16-4(c)); special asylum procedures for unaccompanied children (§ 16-4(c)); adjustment eligibility of alien who entered without inspection and then obtained TPS (§ 16-7(a)(6)); eligibility of after-acquired spouse under Cuban Adjustment Act (§ 16-7(e)); preempted state law provisions aimed at aliens, employers, and landlords (§ 19-4(l)(3)). • BIA decisions on such issues as: what constitutes a drug trafficking crime (§ 10-6(b)(1)(iv)); implications of child pornography conviction (§ 10-6(b)(1)(vi)); possession of ammunition by a convicted felon (§ 10-6(b)(1)(vi)); availability of stand-alone § 212(h) waiver without adjustment application (§ 10-6(b)(3)); service of NTA on a minor (§ 11-3(b)); service of NTA and other safeguards for aliens with serious mental conditions (§ 11-4(g)); approval of administrative closure of removal cases (§ 11-5(d)); termination of asylum, then removal and relief in proceedings (§16-2(b)); relocation issues in asylum claims (§ 16-4(a)(3)). • Regulations, government policy memorandums, other decisions, and government web site enhancements concerning such matters as: differing government renderings of single name for certain persons (§ 1-6(a)(3)); USCIS refusal to accept stamped signatures for attorneys on G-28 (§1-6(a)(3)); USCIS use of bar codes for forms, and danger of making marginal notes on forms (§1-6(a)(3)); USCIS use of customer-completed e-Request Service inquiries (§ 2-2(a)(1)(F));

movement of all visa processing to the electronic CEAC system (§ 2-3(a)); replacement of the CBP Inspectors Field Manual with the Officer's Reference Tool and the beginning effort to replace the USCIS Adjudicators Field Manual with the online Policy Manual (§ 5-4); replacement of the paper I-94 card for air and sea entries with an automated online I-94 record (§ 7-4(b) and other sections); new section on Other Redress for Adverse Results (on visas and admissions, § 7-4(c)(14)); the radical implications of Matter of Arrabally and Yerrabelly concerning the effects of departure under advance parole (§§ 8-7(d)(2)(i) and 10-6(f)); modernization of the immigrant visa process (§ 8-8); new Provisional Unlawful Presence Waivers within the U.S. using Form I-601A (§ 10-6(f)); exception to false claim to U.S. citizenship inadmissibility if claim made before individual was age 18 (§ 10-6(g)); EOIR Online representative registration system (§ 11-3(e)); ICE Parental Interests Directive and ICE eBOND online bonding process (§ 11-3(f)); ICE non-renewal of 287(f) agreements (§ 11-3(g)); Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (§ 11-3(h)(3)); ICE recognition and implementation of statute allowing post-removal challenges (§11-8(b)); new USCIS Policy Manual provisions on naturalization eligibility and process, including residence, selective service, § 319(b) special rules, and other issues, and new N-400 form and instructions (Chapter 12); Government-side implementation of the Supreme Court's recognition of same-sex marriage (various chapters); exceptional circumstances allowing foreign-country filing of I-130 petitions where no USCIS office is located (§ 14-5(a)); implications of a withdrawn I-140 (§ 15-1(h)); various policy developments concerning EB-5 investors (§ 15-2(f)); numerous BALCA cases and DOL positions affecting the PERM labor certification process and the publication of data about applications (§ 15-3); updated Affirmative Asylum Procedures Manual (§ 16-3(a)); USCIS memo on exceptional circumstances for failure to appear at asylum interview (§ 16-3(a)(1)(iii)); litigation settlement agreements to share asylum officer interview notes in FOIA (§ 16-3(a)(2)), concerning asylum applicant work authorization process and Clock (§ 16-3(c)), and failure to appear at I-730 interview (§ 16-3(f)); bundling of related L-1 petitions (§ 17-3(b)(4)(i)); presumed L-1 visa validity for maximum reciprocity duration but sometimes more limited stays from CBP (§ 17-3(b)(7)); filing I-129 petition for Canadian TN, and duration of Mexican TN separate from visa validity (§ 17-4(c)(2)(ii)); H-1B and H-2A flip-flopping administrative and congressional positions (§ 17-4(d) and 17-5(e)(1)); B-1 in lieu of H in effect but under review (§ 18-3(1)(2)(B)); accreditation requirements for F-1 language training programs (§ 18-4(d)(1)); cessation of CBP stamping of I-20 forms (§ 18-4(d)(3)); use of electronic ELIS system for certain changes of status (§ 18-4(d)(4)); new cap gap and STEM OPT extension policies (§ 18-4(d)(9)(iii)); possible need for separate waivers for different J experiences subject to § 212(e) (§ 18-5(b)(2)(ix)); revisions to M-274 Handbook for Employers for I-9, USCIS I-9 Central web site, and IRS tightening of ITIN application process (§ 19-4(b)); ICE policies about auditing electronically generated I-9 forms (§ 19-4(h)); OCAHO reductions of ICE I-9 fines on employers (§ 19-4(j)); ICE definition of technical and procedural errors subject to correction under good faith rules (§ 19-4(j)); USCIS revision of E-Verify MOU and new notice to workers about TNC resolution, expansion of E-Verify photo tool, and lock out of suspect SSNs from E-Verify (§ 19-4(l)(1)).

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