

THE LAW OF IMMIGRATION

Third Edition

by
Margaret C. Jasper

Legal Almanac Series:
Thomson Reuters' Law for the Layperson

WEST[®]

A Thomson Reuters business

For Customer Assistance Call 1-800-328-4880
Mat #41218333

© 2011 Thomson Reuters

This publication was created to provide you with accurate and authoritative information concerning the subject matter covered; however, this publication was not necessarily prepared by persons licensed to practice law in a particular jurisdiction. The publisher is not engaged in rendering legal or other professional advice and this publication is not a substitute for the advice of an attorney. If you require legal or other expert advice, you should seek the services of a competent attorney or other professional.

ISBN # 978-0-314-60527-6

To My Husband Chris

Your love and support
are my motivation and inspiration

To My Sons, Michael, Nick and Chris

-and-

In memory of my son, Jimmy

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

MARGARET C. JASPER is an attorney engaged in the general practice of law in South Salem, New York, concentrating in the areas of personal injury and entertainment law. Ms. Jasper holds a Juris Doctor degree from Pace University School of Law, White Plains, New York, is a member of the New York and Connecticut bars, and is certified to practice before the United States District Courts for the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York, the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, and the United States Supreme Court.

Ms. Jasper has been appointed to the law guardian panel for the Family Court of the State of New York, is a member of a number of professional organizations and associations, and is a New York State licensed real estate broker operating as Jasper Real Estate, in South Salem, New York.

Margaret Jasper maintains a website at <http://www.JasperLawOffice.com>.

In 2004, Ms. Jasper successfully argued a case before the New York Court of Appeals, which gives mothers of babies who are stillborn due to medical negligence the right to bring a legal action and recover emotional distress damages. This successful appeal overturned a 26-year old New York case precedent, which previously prevented mothers of stillborn babies from suing their negligent medical providers.

Ms. Jasper is the author and general editor of the following legal Almanacs:

AIDS and the Law

The Americans with Disabilities Act

Animal Rights Law

Auto Leasing

Bankruptcy Law for the Individual Debtor

Banks and their Customers

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Becoming a Citizen
Buying and Selling Your Home
Commercial Law
Consumer Rights and the Law
Co-ops and Condominiums: Your Rights and Obligations As Owner
Copyright Law
Credit Cards and the Law
Custodial Rights
Dealing with Debt
Dictionary of Selected Legal Terms
Drunk Driving Law
DWI, DUI and the Law
Education Law
Elder Law
Employee Rights in the Workplace
Employment Discrimination Under Title VII
Environmental Law
Estate Planning
Everyday Legal Forms
Executors and Personal Representatives: Rights and Responsibilities
Guardianship and the Law
Harassment in the Workplace
Health Care and Your Rights
Health Care Directives
Hiring Household Help and Contractors: Your Rights and Obligations Under the Law
Home Mortgage Law Primer
Hospital Liability Law
How To Change Your Name
How To Form an LLC
How To Protect Your Challenged Child
How To Start Your Own Business

- Identity Theft and How To Protect Yourself
Individual Bankruptcy and Restructuring
Injured on the Job: Employee Rights, Worker's Compensation and Disability Insurance Law
International Adoption
Juvenile Justice and Children's Law
Labor Law
Landlord-Tenant Law
Law for the Small Business Owner
The Law of Adoption
The Law of Attachment and Garnishment
The Law of Buying and Selling
The Law of Capital Punishment
The Law of Child Custody
The Law of Contracts
The Law of Debt Collection
The Law of Dispute Resolution
The Law of Immigration
The Law of Libel and Slander
The Law of Medical Malpractice
The Law of No-Fault Insurance
The Law of Obscenity and Pornography
The Law of Personal Injury
The Law of Premises Liability
The Law of Product Liability
The Law of Speech and the First Amendment
Lemon Laws
Living Together: Practical Legal Issues
Marriage and Divorce
Missing and Exploited Children: How to Protect Your Child
Motor Vehicle Law
Nursing Home Negligence

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Patent Law
Pet Law
Planes, Trains and Automobiles: Your Rights as a Passenger
Prescription Drugs
Privacy and the Internet: Your Rights and Expectations Under the Law
Probate Law
Protecting Your Business: Disaster Preparation and the Law
Real Estate Law for the Homeowner and Broker
Religion and the Law
Retirement Planning
The Right to Die
Rights of Single Parents
Small Claims Court
Social Security Law
Special Education Law
Teenagers and Substance Abuse
Trademark Law
Trouble Next Door: What to do With Your Neighbor
Veterans' Rights and Benefits
Victim's Rights Law
Violence Against Women
Welfare: Your Rights and the Law
What if It Happened to You: Violent Crimes and Victims' Rights
What if the Product Doesn't Work: Warranties & Guarantees
Workers' Compensation Law
Your Child's Legal Rights: An Overview
Your Rights in a Class Action Suit
Your Rights as a Tenant
Your Rights Under the Family and Medical Leave Act
You've Been Fired: Your Rights and Remedies

INTRODUCTION

This legal Almanac explores the area of law known generally as “immigration law,” and the role of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, which oversees immigration matters. This Almanac sets forth the history of immigration in the United States, and the emergence of immigration legislation.

This Almanac also discusses the extensive changes that have taken place in this area of law since the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in New York City. The subsequent restructuring of the agencies involved in overseeing immigration matters is also examined, including the formation and responsibilities of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, the successor to the former Immigration and Nationalization Service (INS), under the jurisdiction of the Department of Homeland Security.

This Almanac explores the rights and obligations of the alien, including issues of entry and admission, visa application, exclusion, deportation, employment, and intercountry adoption. The availability of humanitarian benefits, such as refuge and asylum, and protection for battered immigrant women and children, and victims of human trafficking are also discussed.

The process of becoming an American citizen through naturalization, and the requirements that must be met, including eligibility, the application process, testing and the oath of allegiance are also examined. Finally, this Almanac examines the role and responsibility of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection in protecting the U.S. borders from illegal immigration, drug smuggling, and terrorist infiltration.

The Appendix provides sample documents, applicable statutes, and other pertinent information and data. The Glossary contains definitions of many of the terms used throughout the Almanac.

Table of Contents

ABOUT THE AUTHOR	xv
INTRODUCTION	xix

CHAPTER 1: THE HISTORY OF U.S. IMMIGRATION	
FEDERAL AUTHORITY	1
THE FIRST ONE HUNDRED YEARS	2
THE EMERGENCE OF IMMIGRATION LEGISLATION	2
THE IMMIGRATION ACT OF 1907	3
QUOTA SYSTEMS	3
The National Origin Quota System	3
THE IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT OF 1952	3
The 1965 Amendments	4
THE 1980s AND MAJOR IMMIGRATION LEGISLATION CHANGES	4
The Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986	4
The Immigration Marriage Fraud Amendments Act of 1986	5
The Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986	5
The Omnibus Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988	5
The Immigration Nursing Relief Act of 1989	5
THE IMMIGRATION ACT OF 1990	6
IMMIGRATION LEGISLATION POST-1990	7
Miscellaneous and Technical Immigration and Naturalization Amendments of 1991	7
The Armed Forces Immigration Adjustment Act of 1991	7
The Chinese Student Protection Act of 1991	7
The Soviet Scientists Immigration Act of 1992	7
The Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996	7
The Torture Victims Relief Act of 1998	8

CHAPTER 2: U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES (USCIS)

IN GENERAL	9
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	9
RESPONSIBILITIES	11
STRUCTURE	11
Field Offices	11
District Offices	12
Sub Offices	12
Service Centers	12
National Benefits Center (NBC)	12
Asylum Offices	13
Application Support Centers	13
Regional Offices	13
Administrative Centers	13
THE NATIONAL CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTER	13
THE OFFICE OF CITIZENSHIP	14
THE OFFICE OF THE USCIS CHIEF COUNSEL	15

CHAPTER 3: ENTERING THE UNITED STATES

APPLYING FOR A VISA	17
VISA INELIGIBILITY	18
JURISDICTION	18
ARRIVING AT A U.S. PORT OF ENTRY	19
The Inspection Process	19
Entry at an Airport	19
The Arrival Departure Record (Form I-94)	20
Entry By Land	21
Entry By Sea	21
Appeal Rights	21
VISA WAIVER PROGRAM	21
The e-Passport	22
US-VISIT PROGRAM	23
THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE TRAVEL INITIATIVE	23
The United States	23
U.S. Citizens	23
Lawful Permanent Residents	24
International Citizens	24
Canadian Citizens	24
Mexican Citizens	25
Bermudian Citizens	26

TRUSTED TRAVELER PROGRAMS	27
NEXUS Program	27
SENTRI Program	28
FAST Program	29
U.S./Canada FAST Program	29
U.S./Mexico FAST Program	29
Global Entry Program	29
THE IMPORTANCE OF "ENTRY"	30
Protected Status	30
Entry and Lawful Permanent Residents	31
PAROLE	31
Types of Parole	32
Deferred Inspection	32
Advance Parole	32
Port-of-Entry Parole	32
Humanitarian Parole	33
Public Interest Parole	33
Overseas Parole	33
 CHAPTER 4:	
APPLYING FOR A NONIMMIGRANT VISA	
IN GENERAL	35
VISITOR VISA	36
Application Process	36
Required Documentation	36
Required Fees	37
Supplemental Application	37
Persons Seeking Medical Treatment—Additional Documentation Required	38
STUDENT VISA.	38
The Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP)	38
Application Process	39
Family Members	40
School Transfers	40
Eligibility	40
Application Process	40
Length of Stay	41
Employment Authorization	41
Traveling Outside the United States	42
EXCHANGE VISITORS	42
The "J" Exchange Visitor Program	42
Financial Resources	43
Scholastic Preparation	43

Medical Education and Training.....	43
Form/Petition.....	43
The "Q" International Cultural Exchange Program.....	43
Financial Resources.....	43
Scholastic Preparation.....	44
Form/Petition.....	44
HEALTH CARE WORKER CERTIFICATION.....	44
English Language Requirements.....	44
Educational Comparability Requirements.....	45
Organizations Authorized to Issue Health Care Certification	46
Organizations Approved for English Language Testing.....	46
Visa Classifications	46
TEMPORARY WORKERS.....	46
The Application Process	47

I-129 Application Required

H-1B—Specialty Workers	48
H-1B1—Specialty Occupations	48
H-1B2—Research and Development Project.....	49
H-1B3—Fashion Model	49
H-1C—Registered Nurse	50
H-2—Temporary Labor	52
H-2A—Agricultural Worker	52
H-2B—Skilled or Unskilled Worker.....	52
H-3—Alien Trainees.....	53
H-3—Special Education Training Program.....	54
L-1—Intracompany Transferee.....	54
O—Aliens with Extraordinary Ability	55
O-1—Extraordinary Ability (Arts, Motion Picture, or Television).....	56
O-2—Support Personnel.....	57
O-3—Dependents	58
P-1—Athletes	58
P-1—Entertainment Group.....	59
P-2—Artistic Exchange.....	60
P-3—Culturally Unique Artists	61
P-1, 2, or 3—Accompanying Support Personnel.....	61
Q-1—International Cultural Exchange Program Participants.....	61

I-129 Application Not Required

E—Treaty Traders and Investors	62
R—Religious Workers	63
TN—Canadian and Mexican Professionals Under NAFTA	64

Canadian Citizens	64
Mexican Citizens	65
NON-CITIZEN SPOUSE OR CHILD OF A U.S. CITIZEN	65
Eligibility	65
Spouse	65
Children	66
Application Process	66
Employment Authorization	66
Traveling Outside the United States	66
NON-CITIZEN SPOUSE OR CHILD OF A U.S. LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT	67
Eligibility	67
Application Process	67
Employment Authorization	68
Traveling Outside of the United States	68
NON-CITIZEN FIANCÉ OF A U.S. CITIZEN	68
Application Process	68
Required Fees	69
Traveling Outside of the United States	70
Employment Authorization	70
Children Have Derivative Status	70
CHANGING NONIMMIGRANT CATEGORY	71
Application Process	71
Family Members	72
THE AUTHORIZED STAY	73
Out-of-Status	73
Extending the Authorized Stay	73
Ineligible Persons	74
Nonimmigrant Temporary Worker Visa Holders	74
Miscellaneous Nonimmigrant Visa Holders	75
Submitting the Application	75
Denial and Appeal	76

CHAPTER 5: APPLYING FOR AN IMMIGRANT VISA

THE NATIONAL VISA CENTER	77
AFFIDAVIT OF SUPPORT	78
Poverty Guidelines	78
FAMILY-BASED IMMIGRATION	78
Unlimited Family-Based Immigration	79
Limited Family-Based Immigration	79
Petition for Alien Relative	79
Additional Documentation	80

Medical Examinations	80
Vaccination Requirements	80
Visa Fees	80
Numerical Limitations	80
Obtaining an Immigrant Visa for a Spouse (IR1 or CR1 Classification)	81
Spouse Defined	81
Age Requirement	82
U.S. Domicile	82
Applying for a Visa	82
Fees	83
Obtaining an Immigrant Visa for a Child	83
Conditional Residence	83
Timetable	84
Ineligible Applicant	84
EMPLOYMENT-BASED IMMIGRATION	84
Employment Visa Categories	84
Employment First Preference (E1 Classification)	84
Employment Second Preference (E2 Classification)	85
Employment Third Preference (E3 Classification)	86
Employment Fourth Preference (E4 Classification)	86
Employment Fifth Preference (E5 Classification)	87
Labor Certification Requirement	87
Individual Labor Certification	88
Schedule "A" Designation	88
Labor Market Information Pilot Program	88
THE DIVERSITY IMMIGRANT VISA PROGRAM	88
Native Country Requirement	89
Education or Work Experience Requirement	89
Selection of Applicants	89
APPLYING FOR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS	90
BECOMING A PERMANENT RESIDENT THROUGH THE REGISTRY PROVISION	91
Eligibility	91
Application Procedure	92
Employment Authorization	92
Traveling Outside of the United States	92
DERIVATIVE CITIZENSHIP	93
DNA and Parentage Blood Tests	93
Nuclear DNA Testing	94
Mitochondrial DNA Testing	94
Parentage Blood Testing	94

CHAPTER 6:
HUMANITARIAN BENEFITS

REFUGEES	95
In General	95
Refugee Defined	96
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	96
Eligibility for Resettlement in the United States	97
Ineligible Refugees	97
Applying for Resettlement	98
Family Members	99
Resettlement Location	99
Maintaining Refugee Status	99
ASYLUM	99
In General	99
What is Asylum?	100
Eligibility	100
Applying for Asylum	101
Family Members	101
REFUGEE/ASYLEE AND LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS	102
In General	102
Refugee	102
Asylee	102
TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS (TPS)	103
In General	103
TPS Designation	103
TPS Eligibility	103
Deferred Enforced Departure (DED)	104
HUMANITARIAN PAROLE	104
In General	104
Applying for Humanitarian Parole	104
BATTERED IMMIGRANT SPOUSE AND CHILDREN	106
In General	106
Protection Under The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)	107
Eligibility for Self-Petitioning	107
Requirement of Present Marriage	108
Effect of Remarriage	109
Evidence of Marriage	109
Marriage Fraud	110
Residence in the United States with the Abuser	110
Evidence of Battery or Extreme Cruelty	111
Requirement of Good Moral Character	112
Derivative Child Included in the Self-Petition	112

The Battered Immigrant Women Protection Act	113
Section 1503	113
Section 1504	114
Section 1505	114
Section 1506	115
Section 1507	115
Section 1512	115
Section 1513	115
The Self-Petition Process and Application for Benefits	116
Prima Facie Determination	116
Employment Authorization.....	117
Adjustment to Permanent Resident Status	117
Filing an Appeal	117
Getting Help	117
HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND THE SEX TRADE	118
In General	118
Causation	118
Statistics	119
Victim Assistance	119
Human Trafficking Legislation	120
The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000.....	120
Certification.....	121
Benefits and Services	122
The Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking ..	122
The Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2003 ..	123
The Trafficking in Persons Reauthorization Act of 2005	123
The 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution	123
Involuntary Servitude and Peonage (Title 18, U.S.C.	
§§ 1581, 1584)	123

CHAPTER 7: DEPORTATION

 GROUNDS FOR DEPORTATION	125
Status Violation Grounds	125
Economic Grounds	126
Security and Political Grounds	126
Registration and Documentation Grounds	126
Criminal Grounds.....	126
Crimes Involving Moral Turpitude	126
Aggravated Felonies	126
Drug Offenses	127
Firearms Violations	127
Other Crimes	127