

RESOURCES FOR IMMIGRATION LAWYERS

Immigration law is a rewarding, but complex and changing area of the law. You will want to access the many helpful resources available to the immigration law lawyer.

The Importance of Immigration Colleagues

One cannot stress it enough: immigration is hard to practice in a vacuum. Reach out to other local immigration lawyers. Be sure to join the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) (<https://www.aila.org/>). You will find that the fellow lawyers you meet in the national AILA organization and Oregon Chapter of AILA will become invaluable to you (<https://www.aila.org/infonet/state>).

The Oregon Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association has a Chapter Library with free resources available to chapter members. These resources include immigration statutes, codes, regulations, manuals, handbooks, and Kurzban's. The Chapter Library is housed at Catholic Charities Immigration Legal Services (2740 SE Powell Blvd. Portland, OR, 97202). The Oregon AILA Chapter also has an AILALink account available to all Chapter members from their own computers. AILALink has a wide variety of immigration resources, including many publications, statutes, memos, and access to FastCase Premium, a searchable database of case law. Many of the resources listed below are also available on AILALink. The Oregon AILA Chapter also holds regular free CLEs and "lunch and learn" sessions on a variety of immigration topics.

Commonly Used Resources to Review

Here are some, but not all, of the resources that you will want to become familiar with:

Publications

Kurzban's Immigration Law Sourcebook is the indispensable bible of immigration law. An updated version is published approximately every two years. Find it on the AILA website at https://agora.aila.org/store/products/view/kurzban-immigration-law-sourcebook?utm_source=press-release&utm_medium=organic&utm_campaign=kurzban. It is also available in many law libraries in Oregon.

Statutes and Regulations

- Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), 8 U.S.C. 1101 *et seq.*, see <https://www.uscis.gov/legal-resources/immigration-and-nationality-act>.
- Regulations are found at 6 C.F.R. *et seq.* (Homeland Security); 8 C.F.R. *et seq.* (Aliens & Nationality - Part 1 - Definitions, Part 2 - Authority of the Secretary of Homeland Security & Part 3 - Executive Office for Immigration Review (Immigration Court)); 20 C.F.R. *et seq.* (Employee Benefits (Department of Labor)); 22 C.F.R. *et seq.* (Foreign Relations (State Department/Consular operations)); 28 C.F.R. *et seq.* (Judicial Administration), and 42 C.F.R. *et seq.* (Public Health) see <https://www.govinfo.gov/app/collection/cfr/>.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration (USCIS) Legal Resources

See <https://www.uscis.gov/laws-and-policy> for a variety of resources including:

- Published USCIS regulations in Title 8 of the Code of Federal Regulations (8 CFR), see <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-8>.

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- Statutes governing immigration law in the Immigration and Nationality Act, see <https://www.uscis.gov/laws-and-policy/legislation/immigration-and-nationality-act>.
- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Federal Register Announcements, including notices, proposed, interim, and final rules, see <https://www.uscis.gov/legal-resources/uscis-federal-register-announcements>.
- USCIS Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) Non-Precedent Decisions, see <https://www.uscis.gov/administrative-appeals/ao-decisions/ao-non-precedent-decisions>.
- USCIS Immigration Handbooks, Manuals, and Guidance, see <https://www.uscis.gov/laws-and-policy/handbooks>.

The Immigration and Nationality Act (INA)

The INA is contained in the Title 8 of the United States Code (U.S.C.). Title 8 covers "Aliens and Nationality." It has been amended many times over the years and contains many of the most important provisions of immigration law. See <https://www.uscis.gov/laws-and-policy/legislation/immigration-and-nationality-act>.

Organizations

American Immigration Lawyers Association

AILA, the national association of immigration lawyers established in 1946, promotes justice by advocating for fair immigration law and policy, advancing the quality of immigration law and practice, and fostering the professional development of its members. The organization provides members with extensive resources including its research library InfoNet containing over 28,000 primary source documents, conferences and CLEs, practice assistance, publications, and newsletters.

Members further their networking opportunities by becoming active in local chapters, sections, interest groups, and committees. See <https://www.aila.org/membership/benefits#chapter>.

It is hard to practice immigration law competently without being a member of AILA.

American Immigration Lawyers Association
1331 G Street NW, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20005-3142
Phone: 202-507-7600
Fax: 202-783-7853
Website: www.aila.org

American Immigration Lawyers Association - Oregon Chapter

Resources related to immigration issues in Oregon, see <https://www.facebook.com/ailaoregon/>. You will find more Oregon-specific resources on the AILA website at <https://www.aila.org/infonet/state>. The AILA Oregon Chapter has monthly meetings and periodic liaison meetings with local DHS agencies including CIS, CBP, and ICE. The Oregon Chapter also participates in the two-day AILA Northwest Conference along with the Washington AILA Chapter every year.

Government Websites

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Department of Homeland Security (DHS). See <https://www.dhs.gov/>. DHS agencies, which were formerly part of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) include:

- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS or CIS). This provides services under the INA. Its invaluable website includes forms, statutes, regulations, processing times, individual case status, Administrative Appeals Office decisions, filing instructions, online filing (limited), office locator, and many other resources. See <https://www.uscis.gov/>.
- U.S. Customs and Border Protection (USCBP or CBP). This oversees the admission of persons to the U.S. at various ports-of-entry. Its website includes forms and agency contacts. See <https://www.cbp.gov/>.
- U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (USICE or ICE). This is the enforcement agency under the INA (and many other non-immigration laws). Its attorneys prosecute removal (deportation) cases. Its website includes forms, agency contacts, and an online library. See <https://www.ice.gov/>.

Department of State. A comprehensive resource which includes the Foreign Affairs Manual, (FAM), which guides consular officers and is an authoritative source which can be cited, information on visas, U.S. passports, travel warnings, emergency services for U.S. citizens, and URLs for consulates around the world. See <https://www.state.gov/>.

Department of Justice Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) - Immigration Court.

- Main Website: <https://www.justice.gov/eoir>.
- Immigration Court Practice Manual: <https://www.justice.gov/eoir/manuals-and-memoranda#ic>.
- Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) Virtual Law Library: <https://www.justice.gov/eoir/virtual-law-library>.
- Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) Precedent Decisions and Practice Manual: <https://www.justice.gov/eoir/board-of-immigration-appeals>.
- EOIR case status information is available by calling 1-800-898-7180 if you know the respondent's A number.
- Office of the Chief Administrative Hearing Officer (OCAHO) Decision Index – jurisdiction over: (1) employer sanctions for employment of unauthorized aliens - INA §274A; (2) immigration-related unfair employment practices - INA §274B; and (3) immigration-related document fraud - INA §274C. See <https://www.justice.gov/eoir/office-of-the-chief-administrative-hearing-officer-decisions>.

Department of Labor (DOL). Includes Board of Alien Labor Certification Appeals (BALCA) cases (related to certain employment-based immigration benefits), wage data, occupational information and forms: <https://www.dol.gov/>.

- U.S. Department of Labor Law Library - Immigration Collection, includes statutes, regulations, policies, and general information for aliens and employers, case decisions and Immigration Collection: Board of Alien Labor Certification Appeals and Office of Administrative Law Judges, see <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/oalj/topics/libraries/LIBINA>.

Forms

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AILA InfoNet Research Library provides documents by topic. See <https://www.aila.org/infonet/topics>, resources by state, see <https://www.aila.org/infonet/state>, processing time reports for USCIS service centers, local USCIS Field Offices, USCIS' National Benefits Center, EB-5, AAO, and DOL see <https://www.aila.org/infonet/processing-time-reports>, and web resources see <https://www.aila.org/infonet/web-resources>. You do not need to be an AILA member to access these materials.

Ninth Circuit Immigration Outline

The Ninth Circuit Immigration Outline is a valuable resource to assist immigration lawyers in analyzing petitions for review. Topics covered include jurisdiction, standards of review, relief from removal (asylum, cancellation of removal or adjustment of status), motions to reopen or reconsider, criminal issues, due process, and attorney fees. When using this resource, like others, you should conduct your own independent research and verify that cited decisions are still good law. See <https://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/guides/immigration-outline/>.

Web Resources

The AILA URL provides links to web resources, including these topics: <https://www.aila.org/infonet/web-resources> (available to non-members):

- Legal Research;
- Executive Office for Immigration Review & Related Agencies;
- Government Information;
- Immigration-Related Organizations;
- Policy Research;
- Legislative Research;
- Judicial & Administrative Research;
- Human Rights, Civil Rights, and Refugees;
- Children's Issues;
- Law and Professional Associations;
- International law;
- Pro Bono; and
- General Litigation Resources.

Websites Providing Immigration Law Developments and News

AILA. www.aila.org/.

LexisNexis -- Immigration Law Community. Daily news updates, emerging issues analysis and guest commentaries, podcasts and LexisNexis resources in immigration law. Register for excellent daily email updates. <https://www.lexisnexis.com/community/insights/legal/immigration/>.

Thomson Reuters "Interpreter Releases". Weekly reports on and analysis of up-to-the-minute information covering all aspects of immigration law. Weekly issues are available on Westlaw® in the INTERREL database. Articles are posted to INTERREL-DAILY daily, Monday through Friday. <https://store.legal.thomsonreuters.com/law-products/Newsletter/Interpreter-Releases/p/100029523>.

ILW.com. General immigration law news and resources. <https://www.ilw.com/>.

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Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC). General immigration law news and resources. <https://www.ilrc.org/>.

Publications

ALLA Publications, *supra*.

Immigrant Legal Resources Center. Multiple other immigration law publications, including:

- Defending Immigrants in the Ninth Circuit: Impact of Crimes under California and Other State Laws, <https://store.ilrc.org/publications>.

LexisNexis Immigration Law eCatalog. Multiple publications including treatises, publications on specialized immigration topics and practice guides: <https://store.lexisnexis.com/categories/area-of-practice/immigration-law-279>. The eCatalog includes:

- Immigration Law & Procedure. A 21-volume treatise on Immigration Law published by LexisNexis: <https://store.lexisnexis.com/categories/product/immigration-law-procedure-skuusSku10420>. Available in some law libraries in Oregon.

Thomson Reuters Catalog. Multiple publications including treatises, publications on specialized immigration topics, and practice guides: <http://legalsolutions.thomsonreuters.com/law-products/search?q=immigration&r=13001&s=KEYWORDSEARCH>.

Resource Websites – Non-Issue Specific

American Immigration Council. Formerly known as the American Immigration Law Foundation, the American Immigration Council engages in impact litigation, and appears as amicus curiae before administrative tribunals and federal courts, serves as a point of contact for lawyers conducting or contemplating immigration litigation and provides resources for immigration litigation and policy and publishes practice advisories on immigration law. They work with other immigrants' rights organizations and immigration attorneys across the United States to promote the just and fair administration of our immigration laws. <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/>.

National Immigration Project. Provides legal assistance and technical support to immigrant communities, legal practitioners, and advocates of the rights of non-citizens. <https://nipnlg.org/>.

Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC). Provides updates, trainings, and resources for community-based immigration programs. Many resources are online. <https://www.cliniclegal.org/>.

ILW.com. General immigration law resources. <https://www.ilw.com/>.

Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC). Provides legal trainings, technical assistance to practitioners, educational materials (publications and extensive online resources), and advocacy on immigration issues. ILRC has listservs on various areas of immigration law. <https://www.ilrc.org/>.

Resource Websites – Issue Specific Resources

Asylum

- Department of State Report on Human Rights – Country Reports on Human Rights Practices. <https://www.state.gov/reports-bureau-of-democracy-human-rights-and-labor/country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/>.

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- Department of State Report on International Religious Freedom. <https://www.state.gov/international-religious-freedom-reports/>.
- Refworld. <https://www.refworld.org/>.
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) – U.N. Refugee Agency. <https://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/home>.
- Amnesty International Online. <https://www.amnesty.org/en/>.
- Human Rights Watch. <https://www.hrw.org/>.
- Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs scales of justice. A directory of search engines and searchable databases. <https://internationalaffairsresources.com/humrts.html>.
- Immigration Advocates Network. A network that supports legal advocates working on behalf of immigrants' rights. <https://www.immigrationadvocates.org/>.
- USCIS Asylum Division Training Programs. <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/refugees-and-asylum/asylum/asylum-division-training-programs>.
- U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants. <https://refugees.org/>.
- World Organization Against Torture (OMCT). <https://www.omct.org/>.
- Also, see country-specific human rights organizations.

Criminal

- National Immigration Project. Expanded access for members. <https://nipnlg.org/membership>.
- Oregon Justice Resource Center, Immigrant Rights Project. <https://ojrc.info/immigrant-rights-project>.
- Washington Defender Association Immigration Project. It serves as the voice for the public defense community and provides support for zealous advocacy to vindicate a client's cause or endeavor. <https://defensenet.org/case-support/wda-immigration-project/>.
- See also the PLF practice aid, *Immigration Consequences of Criminal Activity, Immigration Attorney Referral Checklist*. Go to www.osbplf.org > Services > CLEs & Resources > Practice Aids > Immigration.

Victims

- Advanced Special Immigration Survivors Technical Assistance (ASISTA). Resources for advocacy for immigrant survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. Listserv available. <https://asistahelp.org/>.

International

- Embassies. <https://www.embassy.org/>.

Foreign Consulates

- In the United States. <https://www.embassy-worldwide.com/country/united-states/>.

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IMPORTANT NOTICES

This material is provided for informational purposes only and does not establish, report, or create the standard of care for attorneys in Oregon, nor does it represent a complete analysis of the topics. Readers should conduct their own appropriate legal research. The information presented does not represent legal advice. This information may not be republished, sold, or used in any other form without the written consent of the Oregon State Bar Professional Liability Fund, except that permission is granted for Oregon lawyers to use and modify these materials for their own practices.
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