Annual Northwest Regional Immigration Law Conference

Business Track – Day 1 – Thursday, March 19, 2015

7:15 – 8:00 a.m.  Registration
8:00 – 9:00 a.m.  Keynote Breakfast
9:00 – 9:15 a.m.  Break
9:15 – 10:15 a.m.  Session 1: DOS Panel
- Do’s and Don’ts when dealing with the National Visa Center
- E Visa processing at U.S. Consulates – Calgary/Vancouver
- Relinquishment/Renunciation of U.S. citizenship
- Immigrant Visa processing at U.S. Consulate – Montreal
- Nationality cases/Registration of U.S. Citizenship
- U.S. passports and other services

Moderator: Joel Pagett
Panelists: Gillian Apfel (American Citizens Services Chief, US Consulate Vancouver, BC, Canada), Jeffrey Hanley (US Consulate Calgary, Canada)(Invited), Matt Hurley (Consul Chief, Montreal, Canada), Phillip Slattery (Director, National Visa Center)

10:15 – 11:15 a.m.  Session 2: Customs and Border Protection Panel
- Issues at the Border
- L
- TN
- E

Moderator: Andrew Stevenson

11:15 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  Session 3: CIS Panel

Moderator: Diana Moller
Panelists: Anne Corsano (District Director, USCIS), Linda Dougherty (Seattle Field Office Director, USCIS), Michael Hickman (Portland Field Office Director, USCIS)

12:30 – 1:15 p.m.  Lunch on your own
1:15 – 2:15 p.m.  Session 4: L1 Visa
- Overview
- Blanket L Petitions
- Practice Pointers/ RFE trends

Panelists: Lisa Christoffersen, Melany Savitt

2:15 – 3:45 p.m.  Session 5: H-1B RFE Trends
- RFE Trends
- Cap Issues
- H4 Work Authorization Updates
- 2010 Neufeld Memo Issues

Panelists: Teuta Norman, Felicia Gittleman

3:45 – 4:00 p.m.  Break
4:00 – 5:15 p.m.  Session 6: Welcome to PERM Land Where Nothing is Permanent or Predictable!
- How to structure the Job Description and requirements
- Tackling Travel and Worksite Issues
- Alternate, Equivalent requirements
- Advertisement strategies and pitfalls
- Audit – Now What?
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Panelists: Dagmar Butte, Andrew Chan

5:15 p.m. Day One Course Evaluations and Adjourn
5:30 – 7:00 p.m. Awards Reception – 2nd Floor Gallery, Sullivan Hall

Business Track – Day 2 – Friday, March 20, 2015

7:45 – 8:30 a.m. Registration & Continental Breakfast
8:30 – 9:30 a.m. Session 7: Understanding F-1 International Student Employment
- Types of F-1 Employment Authorization (CPT, pre-completion/post-completion/STEM extension/cap gap OPT, etc.)
- Working with international student advisors
- Completing I-9s
- Case Studies
- Volunteering/Unpaid Employment
Panelists: Machelle Allman (University of Washington), Abe Schaefermeyer (University of Oregon), Kirsten Snyder Eckland

9:30 – 10:30 a.m. Session 8: E-1/E-2/E-3
- Trends and Updates
Panelists: Greg Boos, Karol Brown, Maria Marty

10:30 – 10:45 a.m. Break
10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Session 9: Tax Issues for Non-Citizens
- U.S. Tax Law – Who is Subject and When
- Losing/Abandoning LPR Status/US Citizenship
- Foreign Companies Doing Business in the U.S.
- Taxigration: Immigration Consequences of Non-Compliance
Panelists: Bradley Maier, Dan Eller

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Lunch on your own
1:00 – 2:00 p.m. Session 10: Curls are Out – Alternatives to PERM
- Extraordinary Ability, Outstanding Professor/Researcher, Multinational Managers/Executives & NIWs
- Overview of recent AAO Decisions
- RFE Trends
- Strategies for Successful Cases
Panelists: Kevin Lederman, Tifani Parilli

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. Session 11: J-1: Visas and Waivers
Panelists: Ursula Owen (University of Washington), Kripa Upadhyay

3:00 – 3:15 p.m. Break
3:15 – 4:30 p.m. Session 12: Ethics: Dual representation in employment based context
Panelists: Peter Jarvis, Gregg Rodgers

4:30 p.m. Day Two Course Evaluations and Adjourn
Business Track Speaker Biographies

Machelle Allman
Machelle Allman is Assistant Director of International Student Services and International Student Advisor at the University of Washington in Seattle. She serves as student RegBud for NAFSA Region 1. She has previously trained both the F-1 for Beginners and J-1 for Beginners Workshops and is a frequent speaker and panelist on regulatory issues. She co-presented a session on Leadership for the International Educator at the NAFSA National Conference in San Diego.

Gillian Apfel
Gillian Apfel has been the American Citizens Services (ACS) Chief at Consulate General Vancouver since September 2014. Previously she managed the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program in Baghdad from August 2013 to August 2014. Before that she served in the State Department’s DC headquarters – working in Crisis Management Support in the Operations Center and in Crisis Management Training coordinating Crisis Management Exercises for over 260 U.S. posts worldwide. A consular-coned officer, Gillian served in a rotational tour in Bangkok, first as the Human Rights Officer and then as Immigrant Visa Chief from 2009-2011. Gillian’s first tour was in Kingston, Jamaica, covering both non-immigrant and immigrant visas, as well as ACS and the crisis response to Hurricane Dean in 2007. Prior to joining the State Department in 2006, Gillian practiced law in Seattle, first as a corporate litigator and then for the International Rescue Committee (IRC). At the IRC, Gillian worked with refugees and asylum seekers and coordinated a federally-funded program to assist victims of human trafficking. She was a member of AILA from 2004-2005. Gillian is originally from New York and is a graduate of Yale and Harvard Law School. While she was a law student, she practiced at the Harvard Legal Aid Bureau and served as a facilitator for the Harvard Negotiation Institute.

Greg Boos
Greg Boos practices through Cascadia Cross-Border Law (cascadia.com). Greg received his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Idaho in 1977, and is a member of the Washington State Bar Association and the bars of various US Federal courts. He is also licensed as a Practitioner of Foreign Law by the Law Society of British Columbia, and is on List of Counsel approved by the International Criminal Court. Greg holds Adjunct Professor status with Western Washington University and acts as an external advisor to its Border Policy Research Institute. In his personal life, Greg enjoys early music and Italian and German opera.

Karol Brown

Dagmar Butte - a shareholder at Parker Butte & Lane - practices Business and Family Immigration for private individuals and corporate clients in high tech, health care, engineering, education and a variety of other sectors. She writes and speaks frequently on immigration law matters throughout the U.S. Dagmar, an Elected Director of the Board of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), has been listed as a SuperLawyer since 2008, is listed in Who's Who Among Business Immigration Lawyers and Chambers USA, served on then candidate Barack Obama’s Immigration Policy Committee and received the Oregon AILA 2009 Gerald H. Robinson Excellence in Immigration Advocacy Award. She currently chairs AILA’s Nebraska Service Center Committee and serves on its Service Center Operations, Business Immigration and Transparency Committees. In her spare time, she is an Adjunct Professor teaching international law at Lewis & Clark Law School.

Andrew Chan
Andrew Chan is managing director at MacDonald Hoague & Bayless in Seattle. He advises and represents technology companies and workers, major sports, arts, and entertainment organizations, and families with immigration matters. Andrew speaks to professional and community audiences on immigration topics ranging from nonimmigrant visa strategies to immigrant rights. Andrew graduated from the UW School of Law and is conversant in Mandarin Chinese.
Lisa Christoffersen
Lisa Christoffersen is the founder of Christoffersen Law PS, a Seattle firm specializing in business and family based immigration. She has been practicing employment-based immigration law since 1999 with an emphasis on the technology and biotechnology sectors. Lisa is currently the Vice Chair of the AILA Washington Executive Committee and serves on the California Service Center liaison committee for AILA National. Lisa received her BA in East Asian Studies from Middlebury College, and her MAIS and JD from the University of Washington.

Anne Corsano
Anne Corsano is the District Director, USCIS.

Linda Dougherty
Linda Dougherty is the Seattle Field Office Director, USCIS

Kirsten Snyder Ecklund
Kirsten Ecklund has more than ten years of experience working within immigration law and international education. After serving as an international student coordinator before and during law school, Kirsten was the Associate Director for Regulatory Liaison at NAFSA: Association of International Educators in Washington, D.C., where she interacted with government agencies regarding immigration law related to international students, scholars, and professors. In 2009, she moved to the National Institutes of Health to handle nonimmigrant, immigrant, and waiver matters for the country’s top biomedical researchers and physicians. In 2013, Kirsten joined MacDonald Hoague & Bayless, where her practice is focused on providing opportunities for the best and brightest international employees and scholars within the tech, aerospace, and research communities, as well as the research institutes and employers that rely on their skills. Kirsten also serves as the Chair of the AILA WA Employment Based Focus Group.

Dan Eller
Dan Eller is a shareholder in the Portland, OR office of Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt, who focuses his practice in the areas of tax and business law, advising clients with both transactional and controversy matters. In particular, since 2009, Dan has advised dozens of clients on issues related to the reporting of foreign assets and financial institution accounts. Before joining the firm, Dan served as law clerk to the Hon. Henry C. Breithaupt in the Regular Division of the Oregon Tax Court. Dan was named a member of the Cornelius Honor Society upon graduating from Lewis and Clark Law School, and later obtained his LL.M. in Taxation from the University of Washington. Dan is currently Chair of the Oregon State Bar Taxation Section, and in 2012 was awarded the Mentor of the Year by the Taxation Section's New Tax Lawyer Committee. Dan is currently an adjunct instructor at Portland State University and an adjunct professor at Lewis and Clark Law School.

Felicia Gittleman
Felicia Gittleman is an immigration attorney at Cowan Miller & Lederman. She assists companies of all sizes in obtaining visas and green cards that allow their foreign national employees to work and live in the United States. Ms. Gittleman is a member of the Washington State Bar Association, the American Immigration Lawyers Association, and serves on the Loren Miller Bar Association Philip L. Burton Scholarship Committee. Ms. Gittleman is a past Chair of the WSBA Committee on Opportunities for Minorities in the Legal Profession, and is a past member of the Initiative for Diversity Governing Council, which seeks to diversify the legal profession in Washington. Ms. Gittleman also served on a steering committee that raised funds for IslandWood, an environmental education camp on Bainbridge Island. Ms. Gittleman has been listed in The Best Lawyers in America, in Seattle Magazine, Seattle Metropolitan and Seattle Met magazine as one of the best immigration lawyers in Seattle. She received an A.B. from Vassar College in 1983 and a J.D. from the University of Washington School of Law in 1986. Ms. Gittleman speaks on immigration law related issues at conferences and area meetings.

Jeffrey Hanley
Jeffrey Hanley is with the US Consulate Calgary, Canada.
Michael Hickman was selected as the Portland, Oregon, Field Office director and began his new role on January 25, 2015. Hickman joined the Western Region leadership team in July 2013 as the field office director in Anchorage, Alaska. Before this position, he served almost two years as the field office director in Beijing. In that role, he also served as the USCIS Immigration Attaché. Hickman has more than 12 years of adjudications experience, having previously worked at the Nebraska Service Center as the special assistant to the director and as an immigration services officer and supervisor. Before joining USCIS, he was a private practice attorney in Phoenix. He received a Bachelor of Science in business administration from the University of Nebraska and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Arizona. Hickman is a native of Nebraska and a member of the state bar associations of Arizona and Nebraska.

Matt Hurley
Matt Hurley is the Consul Chief, Montreal, Canada.

Peter Jarvis
Peter Jarvis is a partner in Holland & Knight's Portland office, where he practices primarily in the area of attorney professional responsibility and risk management. Mr. Jarvis advises lawyers, law firms, corporate legal departments and government legal departments about the law governing lawyers. This includes, but is not limited to, matters relating to conflicts of interest, duties of confidentiality, other legal or professional ethics issues, advice on the avoidance of civil or criminal liability, law firm breakups, and questions relating to law firm or legal department structure and operation. Mr. Jarvis also serves as an expert witness and is an avid lecturer for public and private/in-house continuing legal education seminars. Mr. Jarvis has decades of experience as a trusted adviser to lawyers and also draws on his substantial background as a civil litigation attorney in matters involving antitrust, appellate, business tort, general contract, insurance, product liability, tax and Uniform Commercial Code concerns.

Kevin Lederman
Kevin Lederman is a partner at Cowan Miller & Lederman in Seattle. He has more than 24 years of experience practicing exclusively in the field of Immigration Law and his practice includes all aspects of family and employment-based immigration, in addition to naturalization issues. Kevin received a Bachelor of Commerce degree from the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa, and his J.D. from the University of Washington. He is a past President of the Washington Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, and is listed in Best Lawyers in America, Washington Law & Politics’ “Super Lawyers,” and the International Who’s Who of Corporate Immigration Lawyers. Kevin was chosen by Best Lawyers’ as the 2012 Seattle Immigration Law Lawyer of the Year.

Bradley Maier
Bradley Maier is an attorney with the Northwest law firm of Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt where he focuses on business immigration and customs law and compliance. He assists foreign and domestic companies with a wide variety of immigration matters to acquire foreign talent and key personnel. He also advises companies regarding I-9 compliance, U.S. customs compliance and anti-trust issues related to the Hart-Scott-Rodino Act. Mr. Maier attended Lewis & Clark Law School where is a member of the Cornelius Honor Society. He completed his undergraduate education at Reed College and Portland State University. Before law school, Mr. Maier directed immigration counseling programs for two local non-profits as an Accredited Representative. His professional accomplishments have been recognized by Chambers USA, Oregon Super Lawyers, and the Daily Journal of Commerce. Mr. Maier is an active member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) and served as Chapter Chair of the Oregon Chapter between 2010 and 2012. A supporter of the arts, Mr. Maier is a graduate of the Art of Leadership Program hosted by Oregon's Business for Culture and the Arts and served on the Board of Trustees of the Oregon Ballet Theatre. Mr. Maier is also an avid cyclist and bicycle racer. In his spare time he serves as a Team Captain and competes in amateur races across the NW with the Therapeutic Associates Bike Racing Team.

Maria Marty
Teuta Norman
Teuta Norman is a partner at Hecht & Norman, LLP. Since 2001, she has been practicing in all areas of immigration and citizenship law with a special focus on providing pro-active and long term solutions to physicians, nurses, physical therapists and other healthcare professionals, athletes, coaches, religious workers, and trainees. Teuta also provides expertise on business-based immigrant and non-immigrant visas related to investors, national interest waivers, aliens of extraordinary ability, and outstanding researchers. Her clients include a number of hospitals and health clinics, public and private schools, and information technology and manufacturing companies. As an immigrant herself she understands firsthand the needs and challenges that foreign nationals face in the highly regulated arena of US immigration law. Teuta enthusiastically participates in various community outreach events and pro bono work with an emphasis on helping children and victims of domestic violence. She is a frequent speaker on various immigration law issues. Teuta graduated Magna Cum Laude (equiv.) from University of Tirana, with an undergraduate degree in law, in 1991. She was a visiting scholar at Willamette University College of Law focusing her research on employment and immigration law issues. Subsequently she received a prestigious World Bank scholarship to pursue a law degree in the United States, which she obtained from Willamette University College of Law in 1998. During law school she participated in a Summer Law Program at the University of Geneva, School of Law, in Geneva, Switzerland. Teuta gravitated towards the field of immigration due to her keen interest in Human Rights and Social Justice Law, her strong desire to help others, and the intellectual challenge that Immigration Law presents on a daily basis. Outside of work, Teuta is an avid reader, traveler, and photographer.

Ursula Owen
Ursula Elspeth Owen is a Seattle native and a graduate of the University of Washington and the Seattle University School of Law. She has worked in the field of immigration for over ten years. She is currently an International Scholar Advisor at the University of Washington, where she works on J-1, H-1B, TN, E-3, and O-1 nonimmigrant visas and EB-2 Advanced Degree and EB-1B Outstanding Researcher/Professor immigrant petitions for University employees.

Joel Paget
Joel H. Paget is the Senior Member of the Immigration Group at Ryan, Swanson & Cleveland, PLLC in Seattle, WA. He has over 30 years of immigration experience with an emphasis on business and tax issues. Joel is an active member of AILA and is an Emeritus Trustee of Seattle Pacific University. He was an adjunct professor of business law for 10 years at SPU, and chairman of the Taxation Section and a Bar Examiner for the Washington State Bar Association. Joel continues to be recognized as one of The Best Lawyers in America (1991-2014).

Tifani Parrilli
Tifani M. Parrilli is a Partner with Parrilli Renison in Portland, Oregon. She has practiced immigration law since 1994, focusing on business related immigration in many different industries worldwide. She has particular experience working with Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and High Tech groups preparing petitions for Extraordinary Ability and Outstanding Researcher, exploring immigration options for Physicians, Religious Worker Petitions, and Labor Certification Applications. Ms. Parrilli is a past Chair of the Oregon Chapter of AILA, and is currently the Oregon AILA Chapter DOL Liaison. She also serves as an AILA National Mentor for Healthcare Professionals-Physicians and Labor Certification-PERM cases.

Gregg Rodgers
Gregg Rodgers is an owner in the Seattle office of Garvey Schubert Barer, a full-service law firm of more than 100 attorneys with offices in Alaska, Beijing, New York, Portland, Seattle and Washington, D.C. He concentrates his practice on the areas of immigration (business, healthcare professionals, and families) and employment law. Mr. Rodgers provides legal advice to individuals, business owners, managers, and executives on each of these areas. He conducts audits and advises clients on Form I-9 and E-Verify
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compliance. He also conducts training sessions for clients, trade associations, and educational groups, on immigration and Form I-9 issues.

Melany Savitt
Melany Savitt is currently an Associate in the Immigration Practice Group at Tonkon Torp LLP and has more than a decade of experience in business immigration law including her work as a paralegal, nonimmigrant visa training coordinator, and law clerk. She represents clients from a variety of industries, guiding employers and foreign nationals through our maze of U.S. immigration laws. Melany handles a wide range of nonimmigrant work visas including specialty occupation categories, intracompany transfers, extraordinary ability, internationally recognized artists, and TN NAFTA status for Canadian and Mexican nationals. Additionally, Melany has many years of experience with the beloved PERM system, and immigrant visa petitions such as extraordinary ability and multinational executives and managers. Melany has provided pro bono services for crime victims, filing U visa petitions, artists’ visas for participants in Portland-area arts events and festivals, and has provided pro bono services with several organizations involved in immigration matters, including Surviving Spouses Against Deportation.

Abe Schafermeyer
Abe has worked in the Office of International Affairs since 2002 and currently serves as the Director of International Student and Scholar Services. Originally from New Hampshire, Abe received his M.Ed. in Student Personnel Administration from Western Washington University. He has lived and worked in Chile and Colombia, and has traveled extensively in Latin America, Europe, and Oceania. With student development theory always at the forefront of his mind, Abe and his team strive to intentionally orchestrate an exceptional experience for UO international students and scholars inside as well as outside of the classroom. He is an active NAFSA member and has spoken and presented at numerous conferences and events nationwide on topics ranging from cultural and academic integration to the engagement of international and domestic students. Abe balances his passion of being an international educator with the joys of raising his two sons with his wife, Libby, all the while taking advantage of the many wonderful offerings in the Eugene community.

Philip Slattery
NVC Director Phillip T. Slattery joined the Department of State in 1998 after studying International Relations at Boston University and working for several years in the shipping industry. He has served in the United Kingdom, Uzbekistan, Germany, Afghanistan, Norway and several tours in Washington, DC. He brings to the NVC a wealth of management and consular experience.

Andrew Stevenson
Andrew Stevenson is a shareholder at Lane Powell PC and focuses his practice on business immigration law. His practice includes temporary and permanent immigration sponsorship for professional workers, I-9 and employment eligibility compliance, investment-based visas, DHS/DOL immigration audits, seasonal and agricultural worker visas, sports and entertainment visas, waivers and resolution of inadmissibility problems, consular processing, removal defense, complex family immigration, naturalization and citizenship. Andrew has served in various leadership capacities for the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), including Chair of AILA’s National Liaison Committee to U.S. Customs and Border Protection. He also earned certification as a specialist in immigration and nationality law from the State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization, and has a Yellow Belt certification in Legal Lean Sigma® and Project Management.