

## Peter F. Asaad

### Partner

Peter F. Asaad focuses his practice on immigration law and is a member of the firm's Labor & Employment Practice Group. Mr. Asaad has been recognized by the American Bar Association (ABA) "as one of the nation's leading litigators" in the field of immigration law and by the American Bar Foundation (ABF) as a top lawyer in the field among the "top one-third of one percent" of the lawyers in Washington, DC. He is ranked by AVVO with a 10/10, listed as a top Corporate Immigration Lawyer by Who's Who, and ranked a top rated AV lawyer by Martindale-Hubbell. He has also been recognized among *Washingtonian* Magazine's "Top Lawyers" in immigration law since 2011.

Mr. Asaad focuses on representing corporate clients and individuals on all business-related and employment-based visa matters including, H-1B, L-1, E-1/2, J-1, O-1, PERM, EB-2, EB-3, Adjustment of Status, consular processing and other matters. Working with HR professionals and in-house counsel, Mr. Asaad represents U.S. companies and multinational corporations in helping manage their employees' employment eligibility needs and develop effective streamlined immigration and compliance programs. He is highly knowledgeable in the needs of immigrant entrepreneurs, start-ups, and foreign investors in creating U.S. subsidiaries and affiliates as well as new U.S. businesses. He works closely with individuals to create a pathway toward eligibility and approval for permanent residence under the National Interest Waiver (NIW) and Extraordinary Ability (EB-1) categories. He has additional experience in advising individuals with employment and family-based immigration, asylum, deportation, and other immigration matters.

Mr. Asaad is extremely knowledgeable in matters involving foreign entrepreneurs and is the architect of the IN2NYC program and Special Counsel to New York City. On behalf of the New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC), in partnership with the City University of New York (CUNY), he developed and launched IN2NYC, the first municipal visa program in the nation designed to help international entrepreneurs create jobs in the United States. Under his guidance, IN2NYC will help up to 80 selected entrepreneurs gain access to the visas they need to grow their businesses in New York City, creating more than 700 jobs for New Yorkers in the first three years alone. This program advances the de Blasio administration's goals of encouraging entrepreneurship and supporting international partnerships to build a diverse and inclusive economy for New Yorkers in every borough.

Mr. Asaad serves as Innovation Council Member of FWD.us, an initiative led by principal Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, primarily supported and



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funded by Silicon Valley venture capital venture firms in the business and tech community. As an Innovation Council Member of FWD.us, Mr. Asaad provides leadership on efforts to fix and modernize our legal immigration system to ensure American businesses have access to the world's top talents and ensure an environment that enables entrepreneurs and start-ups to flourish.

Mr. Asaad serves as an Adjunct Professor of Law at American University, Washington College of Law, where he teaches and develops an advanced course on business immigration. Mr. Asaad is the past president of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), DC Chapter, where he furthered the education needs of over 900 immigration lawyers. Prior to holding this position, Mr. Asaad served as Co-Chair of the American Bar Association (ABA) Immigration Litigation Committee for several years and served as Chair of the DC Bar Immigration & Human Rights Committee.

### **Legal Services**

- Immigration
- Labor & Employment

### **Education and Honors**

- University of Rochester (B.A., *cum laude*)
- American University Washington College of Law (J.D., *cum laude*)

### **Bar Admissions**

- District of Columbia
- Maryland

### **Court Admissions**

- U.S. Supreme Court
- U.S. Court of Appeals, 4th Circuit

### **Professional and Civic Activities**

- President, American Immigration Lawyers Association (“AILA”), District of Columbia (2012-2013); Board Member 2008-2013)
- Vice-President, SHRM DC Chapter (“HRA-NCA”), Legislative Affairs (2011-Present)
- Board Member, GlobalTies (2015 – Present)
- Immigration Advisor, New York City Department of Economic Development (NYCEDC), Global Entrepreneurship Program (GEP) (2011-Present)
- Member, Partnership for a New American Economy
- Co-Chair, American Bar Association, Immigration Litigation Committee (2008-2012)

- Steering Committee Member, District of Columbia Bar Law Practice Management “2006 Best Section of the Year Award” (2005-2008)
- Chair, DC Bar Immigration & Human Rights Committee (2007-2008)
- Steering Committee Member, The Maryland Tech Council (2006-2008)
- Chairman of the Board and Chief Legal Officer, The Indigent Fund (2004-Present)

### Professional Recognition

- Named in the Washingtonian Magazine’s list of “Top Lawyers” in immigration law (2011-present)
- Listed in Who’s Who of Corporate Immigration Attorneys (2016, 2018)
- Selected to Washington DC Super Lawyers List (2014-present)
- Ranked in Chambers USA® (2014–2017)
- Martindale-Hubbell AV® Peer Review Rated
- Recognized as a leading litigator by The American Bar Association
- Recognized among the top one-third of one percent of the lawyers in Washington, D.C. by The American Bar Foundation

### Languages

- Arabic

### Services for Employers

On behalf of employers, Peter provides comprehensive business immigration services which include assessing appropriate employment eligibility options and preparing all applications for employment authorization and permanent residence as well as providing keen insight into compliance matters covering I-9 and E-Verify processes, in-house training programs, and other related support to keep clients in compliance with federal laws and regulations.

Clients benefit from Peter's deep knowledge, personal attention and from an online case management system which efficiently streamlines the process for faster turnaround, provides 24-hour access to detailed case status information, and enables HR executives and in-house counsel to generate case history spreadsheets and accounting information.

Below are descriptions of services that Peter offers employers:

**Temporary Work Visa Processing:** Determine and process the most appropriate visa category for individuals who intend to stay temporarily in the United States for employment or other business-related reasons.

**Permanent Resident Processing:** Prepare and process applications for lawful permanent residence for executives, managers, persons of

extraordinary ability or national interest, professionals and other employees.

**Corporate Compliance Policy Guidance:** Counsel employers regarding federal and state regulatory compliance with regard to immigration laws and best practices in order to avoid civil and criminal penalties.

**Consular Processing Assistance:** Assist in processing visa applications and resolving delays and other State Department matters in U.S. Embassies and Consulates around the world.

**Administrative Appeals & Litigation:** In the event of a government inquiry or investigation, ISG has the experience and credibility to provide effective representation in audits, administrative hearings or even judicial proceedings.

**Volume Immigration Technology Case Management:** Utilizing an online case management system streamlines the process for faster turnaround, provides employees with 24-hour access to detailed case status information, and enables HR executives and in-house counsel to generate case history spreadsheets and accounting information.

**I-9/E-Verify Management & Support:** Electronic solutions to make it easier to comply with regulations, and guidance for maintaining compliant programs.

**On-site Personnel Training, Seminars & Support:** Clients benefit from Peter's knowledge and experience through email alerts, training programs and sharing of best practices.

**Merger & Acquisition Support:** Evaluate and perform necessary due diligence regarding immigration law issues in corporate mergers, acquisitions, divestitures, and other forms of corporate reorganization.

### Services for Individuals & Families

On behalf of individuals, Peter effectively addresses complex immigration matters of every type including representation in employment, family and removal/deportation matters. With proven success, personal attention, and state-of-the-art online case management technology, Peter is able to carry out all of your immigration objectives.

Below are descriptions of services that Peter offers individuals:

**Employment:** Determine and process the most appropriate visa category for individuals who intend to stay in the United States for employment or other business-related reasons.

**Family:** Prepare and process applications for immigration through family

members including spouses, fiancées, parents, children and siblings.

**Visitors:** Prepare clients and process applications for a wide variety of visitation purposes including tourism, business, medical treatment and certain types of temporary work functions.

**Citizenship:** Assist permanent residents become U.S. citizens including preparing and processing applications for naturalization.

**Waivers:** Determine eligibility and prepare application for waivers for persons not eligible to be admitted into the United States or to adjust his or her status for those intending to obtain permanent residence and those seeking to enter on a temporary visa.

**Deportation:** Represent individuals in removal proceedings to determine eligibility for lawful stay in the United States.

**Asylum:** Prepare and represent individuals who are unable or unwilling to return to his or her home country because of past persecution or a well-founded fear of future persecution based upon his or her race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.

**VAWA:** Assist individuals who are or were legally married to a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident and suffered physical abuse or extreme cruelty by the spouse during the marriage or is the parent of a child who was the victim of the U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident.

**Crimes:** Provide advice to noncitizen defendants in criminal proceedings — and/or the criminal defense attorneys who represent them — with regard to criminal convictions, plea deals, suspension of sentences, probations and other criminal dispositions that may result in detention and/or removal from the United States.

## **Publications and Presentations**

06/26/18

**"The Buy American, Hire American Executive Order: How "Putting American Workers First" is Impacting U.S. Business Immigration"**

*DC Bar*

11/02/17

**2019 Diversity Visa Lottery (Green Card Lottery) Special Announcement**

*Immigration Law Alert*

05/11/17

**Business Law Training | Immigration for Employers: Staying Ahead of the Trump Administration**

Quarles & Brady LLP

03/07/17

**USCIS Suspends H-1B Premium Processing Beginning April 3**

*Immigration Law Alert*

09/23/16

**Diversity Immigrant Visa Lottery Now Open for Fiscal Year 2018**

*Immigration Law Alert*

04/13/16

**USCIS Completes H-1B Lottery; 236,000 Received; Will Begin Premium Processing No Later Than May 16**

04/08/16

**What's Next Now that USCIS Reaches FY 2017 H-1B Cap**

04/06/16

**Continue Using I-9 Form Expiring March 31, 2016 Until Further USCIS Notice**

03/17/16

**#STEMOPT Transition Plan**

03/09/16

**"#STEMOPT Rule to be Published March 11 and Effective May 10"**

01/23/16

**"STEM OPT February 12th Deadline Extended – DHS Now Has More Than Enough Time to Ensure Future EAD and Status Validity"**

01/19/16

**"BREAKING: Supreme Court Agrees To Hear Obama Appeal of DAPA & Expanded DACA Injunction"**

01/19/16

**"H-1B Cap – Larger Number of Filings Expected in 2016; Employers Must be Strategic"**

01/05/16

**"Chart Summarizing New H-1B Regulation Proposed by DHS!"**

12/16/15

**"New Countries Added to the H-2A and H-2B Visa Programs"**

10/25/15

**"USCIS Revises October Visa Bulletin Dates"**

10/16/15

**"BREAKING: 24 Month STEM Extension, DHS Proposes Rule to Expand OPT Program"**

10/14/15

**"New Visa Bulletin Instructions that will Cause Uncertainty and Confusion"**

09/10/15

**"USCIS Accepting I-485 Sooner Under New Visa Bulletin"**

08/08/15

**"What's Next Regarding the FY2016 H-1B Cap"**

02/24/15

**"H-4 EAD Announced"**

02/07/15

**"Relief for Syrians: TPS Available if in U.S. Since January 5, 2015"**

11/22/14

**"What You Need to Know About High-Skilled Immigration Changes in the President's Executive Action"**

11/22/14

**"What You Need to Know About High-Skilled Immigration Changes in the President's Executive Action"**

10/01/14

**"Eligibility for President's Executive Action for Parents of USC and LPR Children ('DAPA')"**

### **Representative Matters**

- Immigration counsel to the leading global broadband satellite communications provider for business, governments, and consumers handling all business related and employment-based visa matters and I-9 compliance issues.
- Developed the first municipal global entrepreneurship program as immigration counsel to New York City.
- Obtained fast-track permanent residence for numerous individuals through the National Interest Waiver (NIW) and Extraordinary Ability (EB-1A), and Outstanding Professors and Researchers (EB-1B)
- Counsel to multinational executives and managers through Intracompany Transfers under L-1(A) and EB-1(C)
- Chief Legal Officer to an international consulting company that specializes in consulting services to governments and private clients in the areas of international business and political/cultural networking.

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- Counsel to International Environmental Organization on various business and employment matters.
  - Counsel to a U.S. government defense contractor for an H-1B2 visa.
  - Counsel to mother in detention and obtained national exposure to garner congressional intervention for her release.
  - Counsel to foreign national in legal malpractice action against attorney obtaining judgment based on fraud and negligence.