DECEMBER 2010 Vol. 1 Issue 3

POWER OF PADILLA

Immigration consequences of criminal activity

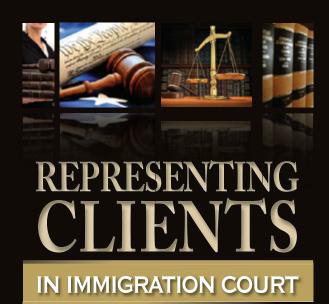
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AILA Publications received nearly 60 submissions for the 2010 Kurzban's 12th Edition Haiku Contest. See which poems came out on top, plus many other entertaining entries!



**PLUS:** New Member Benefit— **AILA Lawyers** Professional Liability Insurance, 18-19



#### 10 "Defending Padilla"

Padilla has brought hope to thousands of noncitizen defendants that could face removal proceedings, but whether it can be applied retroactively has been a source of fierce debate.

by Arturo R. Rios

This is not [a] political donation. I'm not donating money to any politician or any political party ... I'm donating money to students

so they can go to college."

—Jorge Ramos, Noticiero Univision news anchor, commenting on his decision to donate money to benefit future DREAM Act beneficiaries.

AILA InfoNet Doc. No. 10120170. (Posted 12/01/10)





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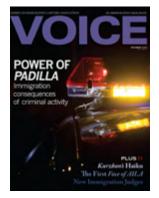
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alking through the lobby of a popular department store, I noticed a group of people crowding around a particular "display"—a letter-writing station and mailbox. Here, children of all ages put pen to paper and wrote their wish lists or letters to Santa.



This got me thinking about the letters and e-mails that we've received at **VOICE**, from

you—our readers. Over the last six months, we have been privileged to hear from many of you: from ideas for articles and features, to requests for publishing information, to sharing your professional and personal news. Your contributions and feedback have helped shape past and the current issues of **VOICE**.

To close Edito *Real* for the last issue of 2010, we thought it fitting to highlight one such example from a recent e-mail sent to **VOICE** from AILA member Kevin R. Leeper.\* Mr. Leeper shared the following:

I am the attorney for the appellant in Matter of Jose Marcal **Neto**. In 2009, this case had gone before the Board of Immigration Appeals and overturned Perez-Vargas, giving the immigration judge (IJ) authority to determine 204(j) portability cases. After the decision, the case was remanded back to the IJ to determine admissibility and possible adjustment of status.

The membership may be happy to hear that on October 25, 2010, the IJ granted adjustment of status to Mr. Neto, his wife, and their child. The entire family is ecstatic to finally reach the conclusion of the case. They have been in process for 10 years and in the United States for 15 years. The last few hearings before the IJ were very tense and, at times, adjustment did not seem to be in the cards for reasons unrelated to his 204(j) issue.

Ultimately, the family received a grant and were very grateful to counsel and Mary Kenney from the American Immigration Council for the assistance they offered during the appeal. The first thing the Neto family did was book a flight to visit family they have not seen in 15 years, so that they could spend the holiday.

As we look ahead to 2011, we encourage you to continue sharing your news, comments, and ideas with us at voice@aila.org.

> Adriana M. Sciortino Managing Editor

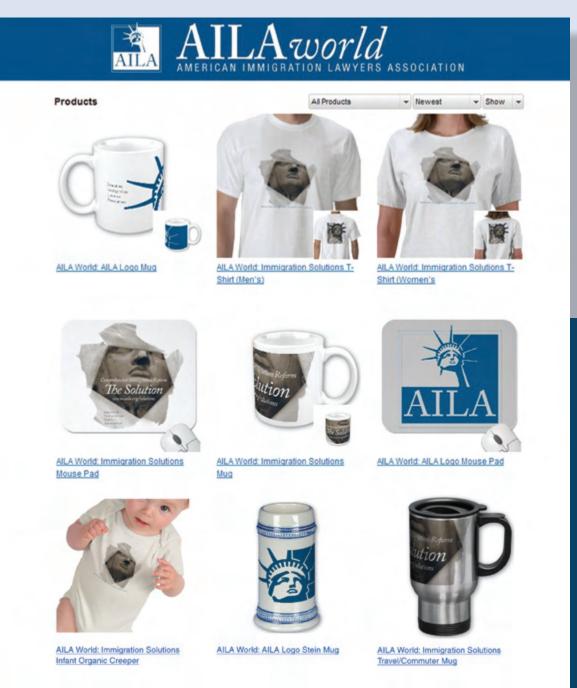
\*Kevin R. Leeper is a founder and partner at Lewis and Leeper, LLP, in Framingham, MA.

# Looking for a unique holiday gift?

### Add these items to your gift list and show support for immigration reform

AILA has launched a new online store with merchandise featuring the immigration reform "Solutions" campaign and AILA logo.

www.zazzle.com/AILANational



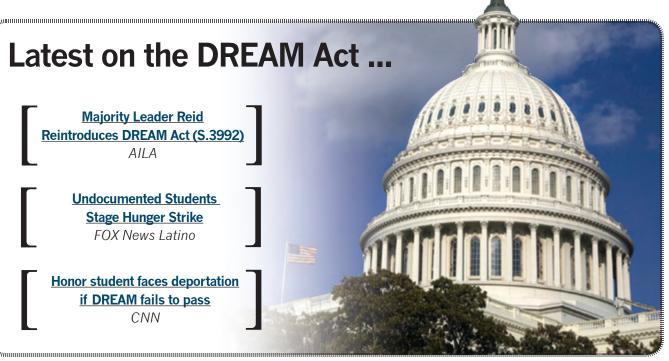


**Majority Leader Reid** Reintroduces DREAM Act (S.3992)

> **Undocumented Students Stage Hunger Strike** FOX News Latino

**Honor student faces deportation** 

if DREAM fails to pass **CNN** 



"Relative to its population, Canada takes more than twice as many legal immigrants as the United States. Why no hullabaloo?"

> **Defying Trend, Canada Lures More Migrants** New York Times

**ACLU Files Complaint Over April ICE Raid** The Huffington Post

"This is a case of racial profiling and ethnic stereotyping at its very worst." -ACLU Legal

Director Mark Silverstein



ICE/HSI dismantles human trafficking ring, saving 2 young girls from lives as sex slaves. Perpetrator sentenced to 50 years in prison.

> **ICE Breaks Up Human Trafficking Ring in Tennessee**

Immigration/Customs Enforcement



Patrick to push in-state tuition
for immigrants
The Boston Globe

Gov. Deval Patrick ... vowed to adopt ... an advisory panel's immigration reform recommendations, including pushing for in-state tuition for illegal immigrant students at state colleges...."

"Massachusetts

Asylum seekers sew lips together Associated Press

......

.......

Ten asylum seekers at an Australian detention center have sewn their lips together to protest delays in processing their refugee applications.



"[I]t turns out that the continuing arrival of immigrants to American shores is encouraging business activity here.... "

How Immigrants
Create More Jobs
New York Times

Arizona Citizenship Proof Law for Voters Overturned by Court

Business Week

"The decision is 'a warning to anyone who seeks to deter or prevent voter participation' that the Constitution 'will protect our democratic process.""

—**Thomas A. Saenz**, president of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund

"Arizona Sheriff Joe Arpaio has gone 'Hollywood,' teaming up with action movie stars—including Lou Ferrigno ['The Hulk'] and Steven Seagal—to aid in his anti-illegal immigration crusade."

Sheriff Joe's
New "Posse"...
TPM





New Report Estimates Economic

Loss Due to Arizona Boycott

Immigration Impact

Report by the Center for American Progress outlining the economic consequences resulting from the national public-opinion backlash against Arizona's passage of S.B. 1070.

# BLOGNATION IMMIGRATION CHATTER ON THE BLOGOSPHERE

"Stories continue to surface about DREAMers who are student body presidents, valedictorians, aspiring soldiers, having sit-ins, hunger strikes and facing imminent removal. Sadly, some are even so despondent about their situation that they have either committed or thought of attempting suicide. Many DREAM Act candidates have joined the campaign known as 'Undocumented and Unafraid' where they come out and present their stories to the public. As far as I'm concerned, these individuals are demonstrating more courage than most elected representatives have ever done."—Mo Goldman, AILA Board of Governors



Black Friday is for DREAMers! AILA Leadership Blog

......

"It starts to get tired when we hear continuously that our system is broken without articulating reasonable and workable solutions to this immense problem that

MSNBC Town Hall Meeting:

Need for Clarity

AILA Leadership Blog

is counterproductive for the growth of business and jobs and also

-Deborah Notkin. AILA Past President

# inside 1

### **Have You Tried AILA's New Digital Download Series?**

separates families with overzealous internal enforcement."

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Determining Unlawful Presence for Purposes of the Three-Year, Ten-Year, and Permanent Bars by Lee

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#### Farm Workers and H-2A Visas by

Vard R. Johnson provides analysis and practice pointers on an area where up-to-date information is hard to find.

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\$90 Regular Price October 2010 37 pages / Excerpt **Understanding the Categorical and Modified Categorical Tests** by Lee

A. O'Connor includes case examples and diagrams illustrating the mechanics of the categorical and modified categorical tests used to determine the immigration consequences of criminal offenses.

\$19.50 AILA Members

\$38 Regular Price October 2010 13 pages / Excerpt

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# **IMMIGRATION IN PROSE**

As immigration continues to garner attention, it's not surprising that there continues to be no shortage of materials on this subject. Below is a sampling of some of these works.

MICHAEL MARINE MARI

#### American Passage: The History of Ellis Island

Courtesy of Teresa A. Statler

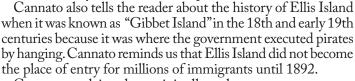
AMERICAN

PASSAGE

VINCENT I. CANNATO

n American Passage: The History of Ellis Island (Harper Collins 2009), Professor Vincent J. Cannato of the University of Massachusetts tells the fascinating story of Ellis Island, along with the history, policies, and procedures behind our nation's early immigration laws. But what makes this book different is how Cannato—through his detailed research of letters, ship manifests, and primary and secondary sources-included personal stories and accounts of individuals who were excluded or deported. Especially interesting to me as an immigration lawyer were the chapters "Intelligence" and "Moral Turpitude." The former discusses how "idiots," "imbeciles," and the "feebleminded" were excluded and tells of the criteria (or lack thereof) for making these determinations. "Moral Turpitude" was full of incredible stories of foreigners excluded as lacking in moral turpitude for transgressions such as being young and pregnant without a husband or being an adulterer. Single French women, especially ones who traveled in first

class, were likely to be excluded as prostitutes.



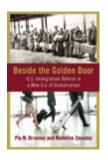
Cannato explains that, originally, only steerage passengers went through Ellis Island. More prosperous first- and secondclass passengers were given a cursory inspection on a barge before being whisked into Manhattan. During World War I, the federal government realized that "undesirables" might have the funds to buy first-class tickets and bypass the Island's strict

immigration inspection. Unsurprisingly, procedures quickly changed.

This sweeping epic is a book every American immigration lawyer should read and contemplate. — Teresa A. Statler practices immigration law in Portland, OR.

#### Also Check Out ...

- ► The Immigrant Experience: The Long, Long Journey (DVD) is part of "The Shaping of the American Nation" series. It captures the hopes and conflicts of all immigrants, as seen through the eyes of a boy named Janek. This DVD received awards at the Chicago, Columbus, National Educational, and Oakland Film Festivals. (\$59.99; Run Time: 28 minutes; Phoenix Learning Group, Inc. 2008).
- ▶ The Nature of a Passport at the Intersection of Customary International Law and American Judicial Practice, AILA Member Richard A.C. Alton and Jason R. Struble published an article on passports and international law in the Golden Gate University School of Law's Annual Survey of International & Comparative Law.





Immigration Reform in an Era of Globalization Authors Pia M. Orrenius and Madeline Zavodny, in their book, Beside the Golden Door: U.S. Immigration Reform in an Era of *Globalization*, propose a radical overhaul of current immigration policy designed to strengthen economic competitiveness. (\$32.95 Hardcover; The Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group 2010).

Illegal People: How Globalization Creates Migration and Criminalizes *Immiarants* 

In his book, *Illegal People: How* **Globalization Creates Migration** and Criminalizes Immigrants, author David Bacon, an awardwinning photojournalist, labor organizer, and immigrant-rights activist, follows the lives of undocumented workers who travel back and forth from Mexico to the United States. He examines the economic and social forces in both countries that attract workers to a market where they can earn higher wages, but also make them vulnerable to exploitation. (\$18.00 Paperback; Beacon Press 2009). W

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# Defending Padilla

by ARTURO RIOS, JR.

t is more important than ever for prosecutors, defense counsel, and judges to have a basic understanding of the immigration consequences that flow from a noncitizen's guilty plea. According to a U.S Supreme Court landmark decision in Padilla v. \_ U.S. \_\_\_\_, 130 S. Ct. 1473 (2010), criminal-defense counsel have a constitutional duty to address the immigration consequences facing a noncitizen defendant, and that failure to perform this duty constitutes ineffective assistance of counsel under the Sixth Amendment. Padilla has brought hope to thousands of noncitizen defendants who might be in a position to attack pleas that they may have entered into in criminal courts—pleas that may have triggered removal proceedings.

Unfortunately, lower courts have brazenly attacked *Padilla*, in what can only be termed an act of open defiance against the Supreme Court's holding. The attacks focus on whether *Padilla* can be retroactive in its application, and whether a trial court's warnings to a noncitizen defendant

about the immigration consequences of a plea obviate counsel's duty to warn.

Despite some courts' decisions to the contrary, *Padilla* is meant to be applied retroactively. The Supreme Court's holding was clear: Criminal defense counsel have a constitutional duty to address the immigration consequences facing a noncitizen defendant. The Court presented no exceptions to this rule anywhere in *Padilla*. This article will address these two issues, and provide arguments that counsel can use when faced with attacks of this nature in lower courts.

#### Padilla is Retroactively Applicable

Padilla governs petitions for post-conviction relief that were pending with lower courts before the Padilla decision and after the Supreme Court issued the Padilla decision. While some lower courts have held that Padilla is not to be applied retroactively, the question of retroactivity revolves around whether Padilla announced a new constitutional rule. In fact, a "case announces a new rule when it breaks new ground or imposes a new obligation on the states or the Federal

Government." *Teague v. Lane*, 489 U.S. 288 (1989). It also "announces a new rule if the result was not dictated by precedent existing at the time the defendant's conviction became final." *Id.* In contrast, the holding in *Padilla* centered chiefly on the rules enumerated in *Strickland v. Washington*, 466 U.S. 668 (1984). Thus, in *Padilla*, the Court did not overrule a clear past precedent, but rather held that *Strickland* applies to advice concerning deportation. *Padilla*, 130 S. Ct. at 1473, n. 12.

Therefore, counsel can argue that *Padilla* does not announce a new rule, but is rather dictated by precedent existing since, at least, 1984, making *Padilla* retroactive to at least that year. Since *Padilla* holds that criminal-defense counsel's failure to address the immigration consequences facing a noncitizen defendant constitutes ineffective assistance of counsel under the Sixth Amendment, counsel could further argue that *Padilla* must be considered retroactive to the enactment of the Sixth Amendment itself.

In addition, *Padilla* involved a collateral attack on a 2002 Kentucky criminal sentence. Therefore, it is readily apparent that the Supreme Court meant for *Padilla* to have retroactive application for both state and federal post-conviction relief motions.

If the Supreme Court did not intend for *Padilla* to be retroactively applied, then the Court's extensive discussion about concerns that *Padilla* would open the "floodgates" of challenges to guilty pleas would be rendered meaningless. *Padilla*, 130 S. Ct. at 1485. The Court specifically stated that it "seems unlikely that our decision today will have a significant effect on those convictions already obtained as the result of plea bargains." *Id.* By acknowledging that *Padilla* would have some effect on past pleas indicates

that the Court believed the decision applies retroactively.

When faced with a timeliness or retroactivity attack, counsel can argue that the Supreme Court clearly intended for *Padilla* to apply retroactively, for the reasons stated above. With sound and persuasive advocacy, counsel will readily prevail when faced with such attacks from government counsel.

#### Trial Court Warnings Are No Relief

Some lower courts have held that a trial court's warnings to a noncitizen criminal defendant about the immigration consequences of his or her plea may relieve defense counsel from their constitutional duty to do the same. This

their constitutional duty to do the same. This position is contrary to the plain language and intent of *Padilla*.

The main case that has adopted the position that a trial court's warnings trump *Padilla* is *Flores v. State.*<sup>4</sup> *Flores* has not been released for publication in the permanent law reports, and is therefore subject to revision or withdrawal. In *Flores*, the court held that a trial judge's advisement during a plea colloquy that a defendant's plea could result in deportation, cured any prejudice arising from the criminal-defense counsel's alleged misadvise, or failure to advise.

However, Flores misstates

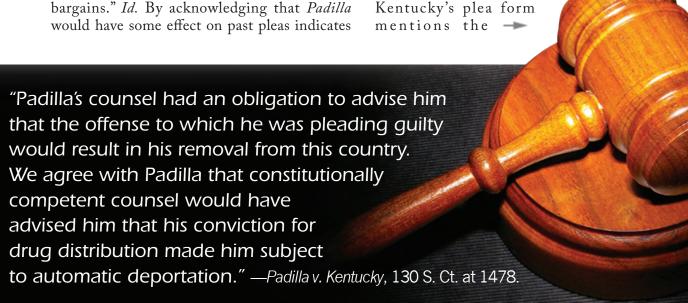
the facts in Padilla because

Padilla clearly states that

Check out AlLA's audio CD (#69)

"Crimmigration'
After Padilla v.
Kentucky" and the Office of Immigration Litigation's (OIL) reference guide on "Immigration Consequences of Crimes: Padilla v. Kentucky"

FOR ADDITIONAL





FOR MORE INFORMATION ON REPRESENTING FOREIGN-BORN
DEFENDANTS, check out AlLA's <u>Immigration Consequences of Criminal Activity</u> (\$99 for AlLA members) by Mary E. Kramer and <u>Representing Clients in Immigration Court, 2nd Edition</u> (\$119 for AlLA members) by CLINIC.

immigration consequence issue, meaning that Padilla did receive warnings from the Kentucky court. The Court goes on to cite that numerous states have similar warnings and colloquies in their rules of criminal procedure, including Florida. *Padilla*, 130 S. Ct. at 1486, n. 15. In that same breath, the Supreme Court states that the "severity of deportation .... only underscores how critical it is for counsel to inform her noncitizen client that he faces a risk of deportation." *Id*.

Therefore, *Padilla* holds that a trial court's warnings about immigration consequences are not enough to quash criminal-defense counsel's duty to properly advise his or her client about the immigration consequences of a

guilty plea.

Moreover, *Flores's* reasoning would make *Padilla* a nullity. To wit, if the Supreme Court had meant for *Padilla* to apply only when a trial court does not

advise a noncitizen defendant of the immigration consequences of a plea, the Supreme Court would have clearly stated so in its holding. The Court could have held that *Padilla* would apply only in courts that do not have the procedural safeguards the Court mentioned in its decision. But instead of doing so, the Supreme Court held that the presence of such safeguards reinforces the importance of an attorney informing a noncitizen client of his or her risk of deportation.

In other words, no matter what procedural safeguards are in place, criminal defense counsel must still inform a noncitizen client of the immigration consequences of a plea. Moreover, counsel's failure to do so gives rise to a Sixth Amendment *Padilla* violation and to a constitutionally defective plea.

If decisions like *Flores* stand, *Padilla* will become a proverbial flash in the pan. Its promise of justice and redemption will quickly wither, along with the dreams and hopes of those noncitizen defendants whose constitutional rights have been trampled on in our criminal courts, and who face the specter of deportation as a consequence thereof.

#### Make the Argument

got a comment?

voice@aila.org

send it to:

The importance of protecting the *Padilla* decision and actively questioning decisions like that of *Flores v. State* should not be underestimated. *Padilla* has brought hope to many of the clients whom deportation defense lawyers are privileged

to represent. It should be argued that *Padilla* is retroactively applicable and not bypassed by a criminal court's warnings about possible immigration consequences of a guilty plea. Therefore, defense lawyers have the obligation

to address immigration consequences with noncitizen clients. As immigration lawyers, we must protect *Padilla* with all the fervor we can muster.

Arturo "Art" Rios, Jr. practices immigration law in St. Petersburg, FL, focusing on deportation defense and immigration litigation. He is also an adjunct professor at Stetson Law and an editor/contributor for AILA's Litigation Toolbox (\$99 for AILA members). The author's views do not necessarily represent the views of AILA nor do they constitute legal advice or representation. Please seek professional

advice from a licensed immigration attorney through AILA's Immigration
Lawyer Search.

**<sup>1</sup>** See Padilla, 130 S. Ct. at 1485; see also D. Kesselbrenner, <u>A Defending Immigrants Partnership Practice Advisory: Retroactive Applicability of Padilla v. Kentucky</u> (June 24, 2010).

<sup>2</sup> U.S. v. Guzman-Garcia, 2010 WL 1791247 (E.D.Cal. May 3, 2010).

<sup>3</sup> People v. Valestil, 2010 WL 2367351 (N.Y. Crim. Ct. June 14, 2010).

<sup>4 2010</sup> WL 2882465 (Fla. App. 4th Dist. July 14, 2010).

# Need practical guidance on immigration litigation? AILA has you covered!

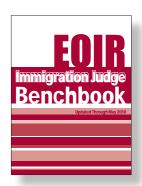


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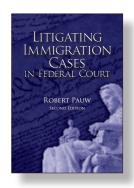


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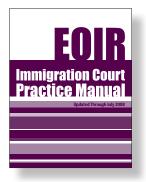


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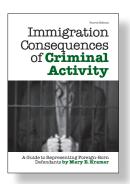


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# DO YOU HAIKU?

AILA Publications received close to 60 submissions for the 2010 Kurzban's 12th Edition Haiku Contest. We are pleased to announce the winners: AILA members Jason Klein, Sophie Alcorn, Daniel P. Hanlon, Alan Aghabegian, and Rosanne (Rosie) Milano. A copy of the 12th edition of Kurzban's has been donated to the nonprofit entities indicated below, as selected by each winner.

#### AND THE WINNERS ARE ...

#### Ira's Armor

Law can be a sword
But in a physical fight

Kurzban's is a shield

—by Jason Klein, Washington, D.C.

Donation to: <u>Women Empowered</u>
<u>Against Violence, Inc.</u>, Rockville, MD

#### 606 South Olive, 17th Floor

Asked in a court hallway
Counsel, do you have *Kurzban's*?
No, it's too heavy
—by Sophie Alcorn, Irvine, CA

Donation to: <u>Orange County</u>
<u>Public Law Center</u>, Santa Ana, CA

#### Immigration Law and My Book

Immigration Law
Vast, varied and volatile
One book explains it all
—by Daniel P. Hanlon, Pasadena, CA

Donation to: <u>Immigration Legal</u>
<u>Assistance Project</u>, Los Angeles, CA

#### Lightsabers and Lifesavers

Green omnipotence
Their wisdom unrelenting
Yoda and *Kurzban's*—by Alan Aghabegian, Glendale, CA

Donation to: <u>Pepperdine University</u> <u>School of Law Asylum Clinic</u>, Malibu, CA

#### A Shining Beacon to Light the Way

Regs can be murky
Dark, like being lost at sea
My book is my guide
—by Rosanne (Rosie) Milano

Donation to: PAIR Project, Boston, MA

Many thanks to all who entered the contest and to AILA's Board of Publications for judging the entries. Here are the rest of the entries, both entertaining and deserving of recognition!

### A Lawyer's Fall Fashion Statement

A Kelly green *Kurzban's*Essential accessory
Won't fit in my purse
—by Elizabeta Markuci

#### Untitled

Draconian law
Please help me, Mr. Wizard!
Sorting hat herein
—by Lori Walls

#### Advice to Youthful Lawyers

New, no clue, what to do?
Awe to draw on vast maze law
Snook a look in the book!

—by Richard Kuslan

#### Alien, Possibly Illegal

You who are about
To step across that great line
Have you read this book?
—by Julia Binger

#### Attorney on the Go

I love this index
The question will be answered
I'm ready for court
—by Alan Diamante

#### Before All Else Fails, Take Refuge in *Kurzban's*

No need to be scared.

The answer will be in there
Somewhere in *Kurzban's*—by Karla Velikan

#### **Book of Madness**

This book is just huge
Cases, numbers, and big words
Eyes and head just hurt!
—by Anne Z. Sedki

#### **But, of Course!**

Not sure what to do! How can I figure this out? But, of course, *Kurzban's* —by *Timothy J. Kelly* 

#### Untitled

Paper creation
Worlds of lawyering to come
Open sesame
—by Scott D. Pollock

#### Clouds

Clouds and water, rain
And sand, *Kurzban's* clarifies
The universal
—by Robin Siegel

#### Untitled

Godless attorneys
Still believe in the Good Book
For immigration
—by Jane Devlin

#### Green Card

Law equals red tape
Job, tax, spouse: wait, wait, wait, wait
New American!
—by Glenn Martin Miller

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Large and thick thou art Wrinkles in my brain thou makst Need cappuccino —by Catherine Lampard-Naccari

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Laughing, the child skipped No one was there to question Where are your papers?

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And physically.
—by Monica Eav

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Thunderstorm rains down
Like RFEs from CSC
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He used it in jail
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—by Jennifer Smythe

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A book required for practice
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I am not prepared.

At my law school, they failed to Teach due process "light"

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The Kurz is the bomb Exploding upon the day Watching in the night —by Anonymous

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Print it in two volumes please?
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Please join my motion or
Removal ensues
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Immigration Law
More complex than tax at times
More than just the forms!

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Doctor, teacher, nurse Visas in alphabet soup No easy options —by Sandra Feist

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The evil some say it is?
Ask them how they came
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Just get The Book and read it

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Me – M.S. Degree Employer PERM no degree! Why no EB2? —by Julie Emerick

#### Fraud

It lives in D.C.
It flies across oceans
It stops for no one
—by Dónal Eoin Reilly

#### Thank God for Kurzban's

Thank God for *Kurzban's*It makes me look much smarter
Than I really am
—by Timothy J. Kelly









#### MEET ...

# Marilia Zellner

he American Immigration Lawyers Association has selected Marilia Zellner as the inaugural "Face of AILA" recipient. Face of AILA is a recognition given to individuals and groups whose work demonstrates a commitment to AlLA's mission.

Marilia Zellner is a model of AILA members' commitment to promote justice and pro bono service. Marilia is a Harvard Law graduate and supervising immigration attorney for **Community** Legal Services of East Palo Alto, helping the extremely poor immigrant community of East Palo Alto, located on the other side of the freeway from upscale Palo Alto. In one of her most recent cases, Marilia obtained a stay of deportation for her client, Yessica Ramirez, a young woman and new mother who was brought to the United States at 2 years old. Yessica is one of many who would benefit from the DREAM Act upon enactment. She has spoken to the press about her journey to the United States as a child and her parents' subsequent deportation to Mexico. Her case was featured on the Bay Area news channel KTVU.

#### In Her Own Words ...

"My immigration practice has brought the world to me. I've learned a lot about other countries and cultures from my clients and have been invited into their local community centers in ways that no other practice area would've allowed me to experience. [When] I was dating a fascinating immigrant from Spain, now my husband, it was fun to do his one-step petition together."



Face of AILA winner Marilia Zellner and her children (left to right): Jose, age 5; Eva, age 2; Sayid, age 10.

Marilia has three children and conducts numerous volunteer immigrants' rights trainings on weekends. Marilia has served as an AILA Pro Bono Liaison and received recognition as an AlLA **Pro Bono VIP in 2008**. Pro Bono VIP is the highest level of recognition under the AlLA Member Pro Bono Pledge program, recognizing a nonprofit legal service provider for more than 150 hours of service outside of daily work. "Marilia is also one of the nicest, smartest, and most compassionate people I know," said past AILA Santa Clara Valley Chapter President Randall Caudle.

"It's a huge honor to have my own practice acknowledged by my peers and mentors," said Marilia. "I've always felt that AILA's dedication to social justice and its ability to connect advocates from around the globe has made it an essential organization, both for professional development and networking, and as an advocacy tool its members can use to help keep DHS in line. Unlike some other bar associations, my fellow members are 'on my side'—they're my guides and inspirations."

✓



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AILA's new lawyers professional liability insurance program is offered in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Insurance is underwritten by The Hanover Insurance Group, which is rated 'A' by A.M. Best. Policies are written by AIX Specialty Insurance Company, a member of The Hanover Insurance Group. Wells Fargo Insurance Services USA, Inc. provides agency services to AILA members in the administration of this program.

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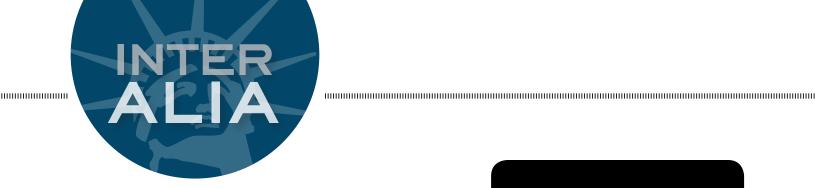
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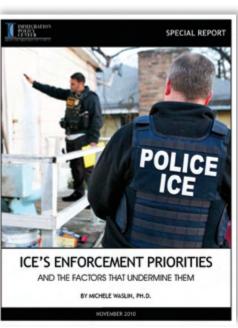






#### This Just In ...

The American Immigration Council's Immigration Policy Center recently released its latest Special Report: "ICE's Enforcement Priorities and the Factors That Undermine



Them." Written by **IPC Senior Policy** Analyst Michele Waslin, the report offers several recommendations for improving enforcement policies—among them, restoring discretion to immigration judges and ensuring that each person has a fair day in court before an immigration judge.

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#### Do You Solemnly Swear ...

The Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) has sworn in 24 new immigration judges to serve in immigration courts throughout the country. EOIR received more than 1,700 applications and the attorney general made the final selections. Find out who they are and if any of them are serving in a city near you.

# Welcome, New Citizens!



U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced that in FY2010, it granted citizenship to 11,146 members of the U.S. armed forces at ceremonies in the United States and 22 countries abroad. This figure represents the highest number of service members naturalized in any year since 1955.

USCIS also has redesigned its <u>Certificate of Naturalization</u> (Form N-550) with new security features to reduce fraud. The change became effective October 25, 2010, and the agency anticipates issuing the new certificate to more than 600,000 people over the next year.

n : a counterbalancing weight, force, or influence: physical equilibrium: mental and emotional steadiness

.....

# Finding Balance Through **Year-End Rituals**

by DANIELLE POLEN

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n traditional cultures, the winter season is a time of slowing down, turning inward, and storing and conserving energy. And while the growing darkness and slower rhythms of nature urge us to follow these age-old practices, our modern culture beckons us to do otherwise. In what has now become the busiest season of the year,

parties, excessive food and drink, back-to-back social commitments, and frenetic shopping can create so much stress that many people have come to dread the season. Indeed, given the dissonance between winter's restful energy and the way that most of us spend the time between Thanksgiving and year's end, it's no surprise that we feel exhausted, unhealthy, or even depressed.

Maintaining physical and emotional balance during this time of year is a matter of recognizing these competing energy patterns and creating healthy habits and rituals to accommodate them both. One year-end ritual suggested by author Sarah Susanka in her wonderful little book,

> Danielle Polen is associate director of AILA Publications. She is also an experienced, registered yoga teacher through the Yoga Alliance (E-RYT, RYT500) and a member of both the Mid-Atlantic Yoga Association (MAYA) and the International Association of Yoga Therapists

(IAYT). She practices and teaches yoga in Washington, D.C., and also leads workshops and retreats throughout the United States and Puerto \* Rico. She can be reached at dpolen@aila.org.

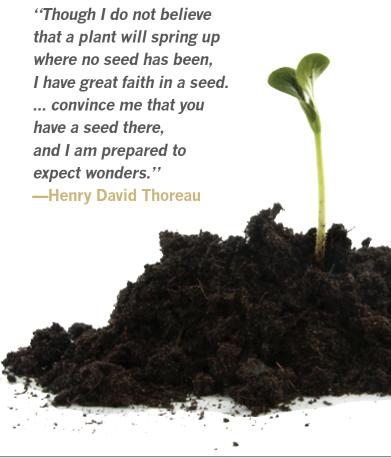
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The Not So Big Life, consists of setting aside some time during the final days of the year to engage in a period of introspection and selfexploration. She sets out a series of questions to help guide the inquiry. She analogizes this process to that of planting a garden: as you commit your discoveries about yourself to paper (or iPad), you sow the seeds for your own gradual transformation. Moreover, the quiet time spent engaging in the inquiry can help restore a sense

of balance in our lives.

you've completed exploration exercise, set aside your writing and resist the temptation to look at it again until next year's exercise, instructs the author. "Then forget about it ... understanding that

part of the process is not in your hands. You are simply the gardener." M







MARISA A. DEFRANCO and RICHARD TOSCANO

have been named 2010 Beacon of Justice Awardees by the National Legal Aid and Defender Association (NLADA) for their significant contributions to pro bono representation in the area of immigration law.



AILA Past-President ROBERT **JUCEAM** has been named by The American Lawyer one of its 2010 Lifetime Achievers.

**PAMELIA S. BARNETT** is

pleased to announce the opening of The Barnett Law Group, PLLC, in Houston. Pamelia continues to specialize in U.S. immigration & nationality law and is board certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.

**TERESA STATLER** was recently awarded the 2010 Gerald H. Robinson Award for Excellence in Advocacy by the AILA Oregon Chapter.

**MICHELLE VERDIGUEL ALONZO** 

has joined Badmus Law Firm in Dallas.

**GRACE ALANO** has opened her own law firm, The Law Offices of Grace R. Alano, in San Francisco after 10 years of practice.

Father and son, RICHARD I. FLEISCHER and NEIL I. **FLEISCHER**, have reformed The Fleischer Law Firm, LLC, in Cincinnati.

**RICHARD TOSCANO** has been appointed Special Counsel (Immigration) to the New York State Senate.



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**KEITH W. BELL:** 9/14/1978

#### FREDRICK W. VOIGTMANN

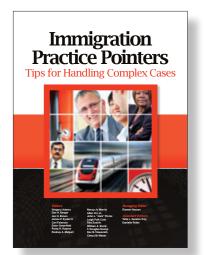
has started a solo practice in Beverly Hills after more than 10 years with Inman and Associates, P.C. Also, he and his wife welcomed their fourth child, Evelyn Beatrice Voigtmann, in February.



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- How does BALCA determine a mistake is a fatal error? See "Determining Substance over Form," page 306.
- Will a child be considered a "habitual resident" of the Hague Convention—partner country even though he or she currently resides in the United States? See "A Child's Claim to Citizenship: Birth, Surrogacy, and Adoption." page 766.

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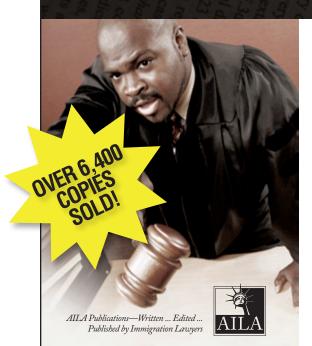
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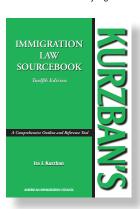
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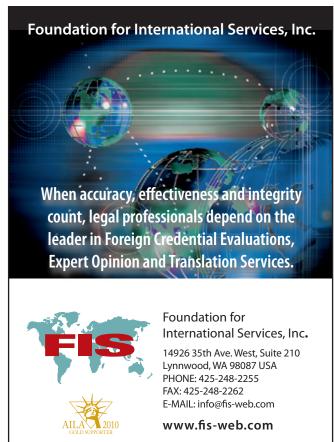
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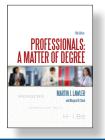
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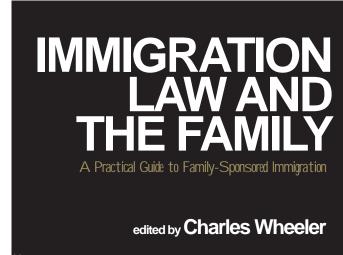
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