



AMERICAN  
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# Immigration and Naturalization for Military Attorneys

*Live ((•)) Online Course*

## Faculty

**Luke Bowman** has over 12 years of experience working in immigration representing individuals, families, and organizations. He founded his own small practice in 2018. Mr. Bowman is a certified immigration specialist with the State of California. He has been working with the AILA Military Assistance Program, taking pro bono cases for over 4 years.

**Beth Boyer** is an associate at Jackson Lewis PC, a national law firm specializing in labor and employment issues, where she is a member of the firm's Immigration practice group. Beth provides advice and counsel to businesses and their employees on immigration matters before USCIS, CBP, DOL and in cases before the DOS at consulates and embassies worldwide. Her practice also includes handling naturalizations and family-based immigration cases.

As a member of a military family, she is honored to serve on AILA's National Military Committee (past committee Vice Chair) and provides pro bono legal services on immigration matters to U.S. military members and their families through AILA's Military Assistance Program.

**Marino A. Branes, Jr.** is originally from Peru and immigrated to the U.S. in 1988. Marino was initially undocumented in the U.S. but became a lawful permanent resident in the early 1990s and a U.S. Citizen in the mid-1990s. After graduation from High School, Marino enlisted as an infantry Marine from 1998 to 2002. Marino deployed twice and was involved in Operation Enduring Freedom. He left the Marine Corps as a Sergeant. Marino enrolled at Cerritos Community College and transferred to the University of California, San Diego in 2006. He graduated with a political science major in 2008. Marino did not imagine being a lawyer, but after a year of work in Peru after graduating from UCSD with a human rights NGO, he decided to become an attorney. Marino enrolled at Valparaiso Law School in 2011 and in 2012 transferred to Chicago-Kent College of Law. He graduated from law school in May 2014. He has been licensed to practice law in the state of Illinois since 2014 and from 2020 in California.

Marino worked with Catholic Charities of Dallas under the Equal Justice Works-Justice America Corps program, representing children in removal proceedings. He then worked for an immigration law firm in Chicago doing removal defense and family-based immigration. In 2016, Marino returned to California to start his own practice. He focuses on removal defense and family-based immigration. Marino is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association Military Alliance Program and the Lions Club. In his spare time, he likes to enjoy outdoor activities with his wife, his Labrador Retriever (Lola), and horses (Spartacus, Ben Hur, Athena, Samson, and Kai). His motto is "Work hard, Play hard."

**Richard M. Green** is a Certified Specialist in Immigration and Nationality Law by the California State Bar Board of Legal Specialization, and a partner with CDF Labor Law, LLP in Irvine, CA where he practices employment-based immigration law. Mr. Green is also an adjunct professor of law at the Dale E. Fowler School of Law at Chapman University in Orange, CA and is a former chair of American Immigration Lawyer Association's Military Assistance Program Committee.

**Vanessa Gonzalez** is an immigration attorney and the President of The Law Office of Vanessa A. Gonzalez PLLC, an immigration law firm with offices in Wilmington and Raleigh, North Carolina. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in both Political Science and Spanish from UNCP (2007) and a Juris Doctor from UNC Chapel Hill School of Law (2011).

After working for midsize immigration law firms for several years, she opened her own firm in 2014. Her firm focuses on: assisting individuals obtain status through family or humanitarian petitions, renewal of status (such as DACA, TPS, Lawful Permanent Residence), deportation defense, and other non immigration matters that affect the immigrant community (such as custody matters for Special Immigrant Juveniles facing removal from the U.S. or traffic matters, such a No Operators License tickets often given to undocumented folks.) She is active in her community, having served on several Boards including: the YWCA Lower Cape Fear, Feast Down East, Going Beyond the Pink, and the Carolina Federation.

Outside of the courtroom, you may find her protesting or involved in local grassroots organizing. She has provided pro bono representation to protesters targeted by law enforcement in Wilmington. On a personal note, she is a single mother and was a first generation college student, and she grew up in Okinawa, Japan and Jacksonville, NC as the daughter of 2 U.S. Marines.

**William Hummel** is a Partner at Garfinkel Immigration Law firm, based in Charlotte, North Carolina. He is one of a limited number of attorneys certified as a Specialist in Immigration Law by the North Carolina State Bar. He represents employers, entrepreneurs and employees in a variety of industries including, but not limited to, financial services, education, specialty chemical, hospitality, biomedical research and technology.

He assists companies and individuals with non-immigrant work visa options, as well as applications for permanent employment certification for professionals and skilled workers and immigrant visa petitions for individuals of extraordinary ability, outstanding researchers and multinational executives and managers.

In addition, William assists clients with global (non-U.S.) immigration matters and oversees the firm's family-based immigration and citizenship/naturalization practice. William is currently the Chair of the Global Migration Section ("GMS") of AILA. He has been named in the Who's Who of Corporate Immigration lawyers since 2020.

**Catherine Magennis** is committed to providing advice and advocacy within the complicated immigration system. As the wife of an Irish immigrant and granddaughter of an Italian immigrant, she personally understands the stress of immigration issues on families and businesses.

Catherine firmly believes in open communication, and she works closely with clients to shape the best legal strategies. She has successfully represented a broad range of clients in

naturalization and citizenship cases, waivers, adjustment of status (permanent residence/green cards), consular process, temporary protection status (TPS), deferred action for childhood arrivals (DACA), special visas for juvenile immigrants (SIJS), U visas, VAWAs and deportation defenses. Fluent in Spanish, Catherine enthusiastically represents her clients to help them achieve the American Dream.

**Lynn Marie Lee** assists clients in both corporate and family immigration matters with a special focus on consular issues for immigrant and nonimmigrant applicants, waiver applications and complex liaison inquiries. Ms. Lee has extensive experience representing clients attending appointments at U.S. embassies and consulates throughout the globe. Ms. Lee has worked in U.S. immigration law since 2006, and she speaks frequently on various immigration issues at both national and international conferences.

Ms. Lee currently serves as Treasurer for the AILA RDC-EMEA chapter. She has previously been a member of the AILA National State Department CBP and USCIS International Operations committees. She is also a former Chair and current Board Member of the AILA Latin America & Caribbean (LAC) chapter. Ms. Lee graduated magna cum laude from Bridgewater College in 1999 and from University of Maryland School of Law in 2003. She is a member of the Supreme Court Bar and the US District Court of Maryland. Since 2017, Ms. Lee has been annually recognized in Who's Who Legal – Corporate Immigration as a leading corporate immigration attorney.

**Kathrin S. Mautino** practices immigration law in San Diego, California. She has been certified as a Specialist in Immigration and Nationality law by the State Bar of California, Board of Legal Specialization for over 20 years—in any given year, there are fewer than 200 attorneys with such certification. Ms. Mautino speaks and writes regularly on immigration and citizenship issues for local, regional, and national audiences and is considered an expert on topics as diverse as the Western Hemisphere Priority Date program and citizenship issues for children born in the United States to foreign diplomats. She has served on numerous AILA committees over the years, including the Military Assistance Program, National Conference Planning committees, and the California Service Center liaison committee.

**Jeremy L. McKinney** is an immigration lawyer from Greensboro, NC, was elected as the association's President for the 2022-2023 term. Mr. McKinney has lived and worked in Greensboro for over twenty years, having founded McKinney Immigration Law firm, with offices in Greensboro and Wilmington. He is a North Carolina Board Certified Immigration Law Specialist and is admitted to practice law in North Carolina, the Middle, Eastern, and Western District Courts of North Carolina, along with the Fourth, Fifth, Seventh, and Eleventh Circuit Courts of Appeals, and the U.S. Supreme Court. He has proudly been an AILA member since 1997. During that time, Mr. McKinney has served various leadership roles including Second Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Elected Director, Chair of AILA's Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) and Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) liaison committees, and Chair of the AILA Carolinas Chapter.

Mr. McKinney graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in English from Virginia Commonwealth University in 1993 and later received his Juris Doctorate from Campbell University School of Law in 1996. He previously taught Immigration Law at Elon University School of Law as an Adjunct Professor, and served on the North Carolina State Bar's Specialization Committee. He and his wife, Cynthia Ligon McKinney have been married 23 years, and are parents to Ethan, 19, and Sophia, 17. Mr. McKinney is active on Twitter; his handle is @McKJeremy.

**Makoto Messersmith** received her Juris doctor (J.D.) with cum laude from the William S. Richardson School of Law, at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa (Richardson). She is licensed in the States of Hawai'i and Washington. She also holds a B.A. in Law from Waseda University, Japan and a Master of Science in the Conflict and Dispute Resolution and a Master of Laws (LL.M.) from University of Oregon School of Law. She is currently a staff attorney at Hawai'i Immigrant Justice Center, Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i and a lecturer at the Richardson. Prior to that, she was a case officer of the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. She was born and raised in Japan and received legal education both in the U.S. and Japan. She also has lived in Taiwan for five months as a Taiwan Fellow. She is actively taking a pro bono case for immigrant clients.

**Nora Milner** received her Juris Doctor degree With Honors from the University of Denver, College of Law in 1976. After serving in the Navy's Judge Advocate General (JAG) Corps to the rank of LCDR, she entered private practice in 1981. In 1986, Nora focused her practice on Immigration and Nationality Law in San Diego, California, and has been a practicing San Diego immigration lawyer for over 30+ years. In 1992, Nora became licensed in the Republic of Poland and opened satellite offices in Warsaw, Poland, and Palm Desert, California. Nora is an active member, lecturer, board member and past San Diego Chapter Chair of the American immigration Lawyers Association. and has served as a law professor at schools. She is certified by the State Bar of California as a Certified Specialist in U.S. Immigration and Nationality Law and has been recognized as a "Super Lawyer" consistently since 2008, among various other accomplishments."

**Stella Shimamoto** is an attorney with Hirota & Associates LLLC in Honolulu, Hawaii. She received her J.D. from the Michigan State University College of Law in 2011. She focuses on a wide range of family and business immigration issues, including complex derivative citizenship cases. She is the current chair of the AILA Military Assistance Program committee and previously chaired the AILA Hawaii Chapter from 2018 to 2021.

**Margaret D. Stock, Lieutenant Colonel (retired)**, is an attorney with the Anchorage office of Cascadia Cross Border Law Group LLC, where she devotes her practice to immigration and citizenship matters. She transferred to the Retired Reserve of the U.S. Army in June 2010 after serving 28 years as a Military Police Officer in the Army Reserve. While a part-time professor and Reservist assigned to the U.S. Military Academy, West Point, NY, Ms. Stock was temporarily asked to work for the U.S. Army Accessions Command, where she developed and implemented

the Department of Defense's recruiting program, Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest (MAVNI). Ms. Stock also worked on many other issues related to immigration, citizenship, and military service, including the Naturalization at Basic Training Initiative, which allowed immigrants to naturalize at military basic training sites from 2009-2018. In 2008, she earned the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) Pro Bono Award for founding the AILA Military Assistance Program (AILA MAP), a pro bono program to help military members, veterans, and their families with immigration law matters. She was named a MacArthur Foundation Fellow in 2013 for her work related to immigration and national security issues. Ms. Stock was the Independent candidate for the United States Senate in Alaska in 2016.

Ms. Stock has testified before Congress numerous times on issues relating to immigration, citizenship, and national security law. Most recently, on June 23, 2021, she testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee's subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, and Border Safety on the topic of "Honoring Veterans and Military Families: An Examination of Immigration & Citizenship Policies for US Military Service Members, Veterans, and their Families." Her testimony included a discussion of the immigration legal issues relating to Afghanistan.

Ms. Stock earned her undergraduate degree from Harvard-Radcliffe and holds a Juris Doctor from Harvard Law School, a Master's in Public Administration from Harvard Kennedy School, and a Master's in Strategic Studies from the Army War College. Ms. Stock is admitted to practice law in the state of Alaska, the U.S. District Court for the District of Alaska, and the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. She has also served as a member of the American Bar Association's Commission on Immigration and the Council on Foreign Relations Independent Task Force on U.S. Immigration Policy. She is currently a leader on the Council on National Security and Immigration. She authored the book "Immigration Law & the Military," published by the American Immigration Lawyers Association, and now in its second edition.

**Stanley P. Walker (Stan)** is the owner of Southern Star Immigration in Fort Walton Beach, Florida. He is licensed in both Florida and Alabama. He is the former Chair of the Central Florida chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, and is a frequent speaker for both national and regional events. Stan has served on several AILA national committees including Consumer Protection and Unauthorized Practice of Law, Bylaws, Governance, Annual Conference (planning), and the Family Section Steering Committee. His practice is focused on family-based immigration, with military members comprising a sizeable percentage of his total clients.

**Jacqueline L. Watson** is an undergraduate alum of the University of Texas at El Paso, where she studied political science and Russian. She earned her J.D. at the University of Texas School of Law. Certified in Immigration and Nationality Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization, Jacqueline has practiced immigration law in Austin since 1999, currently working at JLW Immigration Law Group. She is active in with the American Immigration Lawyers Association, having served previously as Chapter Chair. She also works in continuing legal education by teaching, giving conferences, and giving interviews in numerous media outlets like This American Life.

**David Wilks** co-leads the Immigration Practice Group at Hodgson Russ LLP in Rochester, New York. Mr. Wilks is an Elected Director of AILA's Board of Governors. He is also the 2019 recipient AILA's Joseph

Minsky Young Lawyer Award, and the AILA Upstate New York Chapter's 2018 Mark T. Kenmore Mentor of the Year Award. Mr. Wilks is a Graduate of Cornell Law School.