

## PREFACE

Since the last edition of *The Consular Practice Handbook* in 2019, the world-wide COVID-19 pandemic emerged, severely curtailing operations at U.S. embassies and consular sections. The visa processing backlogs caused by the pandemic are now beginning to clear, and a semblance of normalcy is returning. The time is ripe, therefore, for a new edition of the *Handbook* to guide you in your dealings with the Department of State as you seek visas and other services for your clients.

For newer practitioners, Jan Pederson's article *The Fundamentals of Lawyering at Consular Posts* is essential reading, as it provides a comprehensive look at all aspects of consular processing. *The National Visa Center and the Kentucky Consular Center* by Dan Berger, Stephen Pattison, Massiell Tercero-Parker, and Gabriela Miller is also a key introductory piece for those seeking an understanding of how to deal with these entities. From there, the *Handbook* expands into detailed treatment of specific topics, including inadmissibility, waivers, delays and how to overcome them, and challenging visa refusals. The issues involved with securing various types of visas (B, E, F, K, and L) are the subject of separate in-depth articles.

This edition of the *Handbook* has been expanded in many ways, among them the addition of step-by-step instructions for completing the DS-160 and DS-260. There are also now articles covering an attorney's dealings with consulates on behalf of clients seeking services other than a visa, such as passports, consular reports of birth abroad, and I-130 filings. The wisdom and advice of the AILA practitioners collected here will prepare you well to successfully obtain results for your clients abroad.

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