

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Nearly three decades after writing my first book—on medical waste law of all things—and six books with dozens of editions since then, I’ve learned the basic lesson that, whether you’re a solo author or a co-author, there’s a much broader team of people that makes it happen. Some help directly with the book. Some provide support in your work or personal life to help make it possible for you to get the project done. With this book, that’s even truer.

I have many people to thank for helping get this book through to its initial publication and now to its third edition. First and foremost, my co-author (and law partner) Ari Sauer was a great partner for this project. We complemented each other well, and it was also fun working with him for the last several years—I couldn’t think of a better co-author to be teamed with as we continue this journey.

I also want to thank all of my colleagues at Siskind Susser who contributed to this project. Some of you contributed materials. Some helped with reviewing the manuscript. All of you supported us as we worked on this project. My fellow lawyers Lily Axelrod, Johnna Main Bailey, Meghan Moody, Elissa Taub, Adam Cohen, James Hollis, Jason Susser, and Jeanne Santos all dropped everything to help us meet our publication deadline and were invaluable. A number of paralegals helped with the project including Alexia Adeshakin, Grace Anne Boyd, Caroline Cole, Lori Cox, Allison Hagin, Astrid Hopper, Melissa Luttmann, Shi Meeks, Jessica Martinez, Jackie Moran, Tyler Replogle, Joseph Robles, Lily Siskind, Helen Stritzel, Diana Sullivan, and Melissa Ungberg. I’d also be remiss if I didn’t specially thank Lynn Susser, my law partner and co-founder who helped directly on various aspects of the book, but also didn’t hesitate to encourage Ari and I to take on this project even though it meant committing to an astounding number of non-billed hours for each of us. Lynn has always believed in these “moonshot” types of projects for the, and it’s a key reason we’re where we are today.

And then there are the many people at the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) who deserve special thanks. Enormous thanks go to Sarah Redzic and Danielle Polen who have managed this project and believed in us, held us accountable and on track, worked tirelessly in editing this enormous manuscript, and did so much more than Ari and I don’t even know about to deliver this book to you. Thanks, as well, to editor Richard Link at AILA for his great work on this. And even though they’re not in the publishing department, AILA Executive Director Ben Johnson, Reid Trautz, the Senior Director of AILA’s Practice and Professionalism Center, and Robert Deasy, now retired from the AILA staff, have each been longtime friends who were involved in helping get this project greenlighted and in recruiting me to be a co-author. I am grateful to each of you.

Finally, I have my family to thank. My beloved wife Audrey likes to tell the story of our friend Betty Mehlman of blessed memory who recognized the value of my book writing and used to jokingly tell Audrey, early in my career, that when we were struggling with the new firm, I should just get back to my writing, and it would all turn out okay. Betty was right, but it’s been Audrey’s belief in me all these years that has been a secret ingredient in this “cookbook.” My daughters Eden, Lily, and Noa have all supported my endeavors over the years, and I couldn’t be prouder of how each of them have embarked on their own lives as young adults. And I’d like to thank my mom Karen Siskind and my mother-in-law Madelyne Rafael, both of whom have always been there for me. Finally, I always thank my father Alan Siskind, who passed away more than a decade ago. In addition to being my father, he was my mentor and one of the most amazing businessmen I’ve ever known. He would have loved seeing this book come to fruition and would also have enjoyed hearing all about the behind-the-scenes aspects of how the project came together while undoubtedly providing his usual, valued counsel.

Greg Siskind
May 2023

A project of this size is impossible without the help and support of many people. Greg Siskind and I have spent many hours laboring on this project together. First and foremost, I want to thank my wife, Hanielle, and my daughters, Lee and Magen, for their support and understanding. Their support allowed me to put in the time and effort it took to develop and build the resources in this book, at no small sacrifice of their own. They have graciously allowed the family schedule to regularly be adjusted around our need to continuously work on this book for the past several years. They have been my cheerleaders, life coaches, and personal assistants throughout the process.

This project is not only the result of years of development and work—writing, editing, and re-editing—but also the result of decades of experience and learning with the help of many excellent mentors. At the top of my list of valued mentors are Greg Siskind and Lynn Susser.

We would also like to thank our colleagues at the Alliance of Business Immigration Lawyers (ABIL) and fellow AILA member attorneys for sharing their experience and knowledge with us. We especially appreciate the contributions from attorneys Lily Axelrod, Aaron Hall, Loan Huynh, Zachary New, and Elaine Witty, who each made essential contributions to the additions and updates made in this most recent edition.

Finally, none of this would have been possible without the help and support of the other attorneys and staff of the Siskind Susser law firm. I am always appreciative of the support and contribution of my fellow attorneys in the firm and the amazing paralegals and staff who have contributed their time, experience, and effort to enable Greg and I to create and update this wonderful resource while also having a successful immigration law practice. A special thank you goes to attorney Robby Rubin. Robby was a major contributor to this most recent edition. These amazing people have continuously gone above and beyond the call of duty to help us bring this resource to you.

Ari Sauer
May 2023