



Joseph Law Firm, P.C.

Immigration Law Specialists

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Newsletter

October/November 2011

Jeff & Kirby Joseph Spoke at AILA Conference in Washington D.C.



Jeff Joseph, Senior Partner, and Kirby Joseph, Managing Partner, spoke at the Solo & Small Practice Business School for the Immigration Lawyer, presented by the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), in Washington D.C on October 27th and 28th. Kirby Joseph was the Conference Planning Chair for this two day event and was a speaker on two panels entitled, *Financial Boot Camp for Immigration Practitioners* and *Attracting and Retaining the Best Talent for Your Law Firm*. Jeff Joseph spoke on a panel entitled, *Growing Forward with Your Practice* which dealt with entrepreneurship and how to plan for business growth.



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Jeff Joseph Attended a USCIS Meeting, Board of Trustees Meeting, and Spoke to the Colorado Bar Association

Jeff Joseph attended a meeting on October 5th in Washington D.C. with the Assistant Secretary for the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS), Alejandro Mayorkas, as well as other senior members of the headquarters of USCIS. Jeff is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association USCIS headquarters liaison committee. The purpose of the meeting was to advocate for changes in policy and procedure regarding various USCIS benefits and adjudications.

On October 21st, Jeff Joseph attended a Board of Trustees meeting of the American Immigration Council in San Francisco. Jeff has been a Trustee on the Board since 2006 and has served as Chair of the Litigation Action Center for the past two years.

Jeff Joseph spoke to the Sports and Entertainment Lawyers Section of the Colorado Bar Association on October 25th on Nonimmigrant Visa Options for International Athletes, Artists and Entertainers.

Dea McCart and Amber Blasingame Attended and Presented at the ALA Summit



The Mile High Chapter of the International Association of Legal Administrators (ALA) Educational Summit was held at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law on October 7, 2011. This event, which has won first place nationally for three consecutive years, is one of the most recognized events in the nation. Dea is a past president of the Mile High Chapter and has served on the planning committee for this educational expo aimed at promoting educational opportunities for community awareness for the past three years.

Amber Blasingame, Associate Attorney, presented at the ALA Educational Summit on delegation of legal work and suggestions to improve relationships between attorneys and paralegals. A long time certified paralegal turned licensed attorney, Amber shared her "Philosophy of Legal Practice" which starts with an understanding of how attorneys and paralegals are trained to navigate a path to an enlightened and balanced working relationship.



Denver Metro Location:

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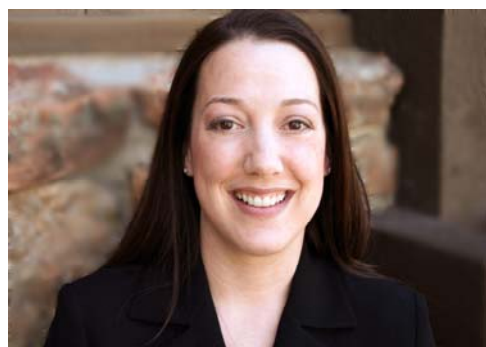
Colorado Springs Location:

963 E. Colorado Avenue
Colorado Springs, CO 80903
(719) 434-5660

Immigration News Updates!

Far Reaching Human Consequences of Failure to Change Immigration Laws

Contributed by Melanie Corrin, Senior Attorney



In a time of consistent inaction on any issue important to the governance of the United States by the United States Congress, the question becomes how individuals work within antiquated, draconian, biased and divisive immigration laws. The United States bases its existence on the rule of law, and sees the Constitution as a living document; therefore, ensuring that one is following the immigration law is of paramount importance.

Putting aside the fact that current immigration law is a hindrance to free market economy because employers basically have to ask permission from the United States Department of Labor to hire the employee of their choice (ask any employer who has chosen the perfect person to work for him and has had to navigate business based visas, the PERM Labor Certification Process, and the minimum six year waiting period for professionals to be eligible to then apply for permanent resident status); and not taking into account the fact that permanent residents of this country have to wait years to live with their spouses and children, it is becoming ever more clear that the human toll of the immigration laws in the United States is devastating, and affect so many, it becomes difficult to fathom why Congress has refused to act.

When considering all those that immigration law affects, consider those in the gay and lesbian community. People who are legally allowed to marry in a minority of states remain ineligible to petition for their spouses to remain in the United States because of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). DOMA denies same-sex couples all federal marital benefits, such as tax preferences, Social Security and spousal immigration rights. This means that even for same sex couples that are legally married to a United States citizen, the government still does not allow them to petition for the foreign national spouse to remain in the United States. There are a number of Congress men and women who believe this is unfair, and have introduced bills to repeal DOMA and allow same sex married couples to petition for one another, but in the meantime families continue to suffer under Congress' inaction. Just because a bill is introduced, it does not mean it will be passed, or even looked at.

Napolitano Predicting Record Deportations

Contributed by Aaron Hall, Associate Attorney



On October 5, 2011, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Jane Napolitano wrote an Op-Ed piece for *Politico* about the enforcement of immigration laws.

Secretary Napolitano sought to respond to critics of immigration policy from both sides. In the editorial, she predicted that next year DHS will break records with the number of deportations from the United States but explained that "while the overall number of individuals removed will exceed prior years, the composition of that number will consist of more convicted criminals, recent border crossers and repeat immigration law violators than ever before."

The administration's focus on prioritizing which individuals should be deported with limited resources makes sense. However, her prediction that DHS will break records for deportations next year calls into questions the hope for those low-priority individuals who seek prosecutorial discretion. Rather, it seems more likely that DHS will see that "record" number of deportations for the coming year as a mandate from above or a quota. Unfortunately, the data can be easily massaged to make it look like DHS has really sharpened its focus on high-priority aliens. By lumping all criminal offenses together, DHS can crow about the removal of criminal aliens. Secretary Napolitano stated in her Op-Ed that "50 percent of immigrants removed from our country had been convicted of a criminal offense."

Such statistics don't delve into what percentage were deported for drug offenses or violent offenses and what percentage were deported after being pulled over for having a tail light out and then convicted of driving without a license because their international driver's license is only good for a short period here in the United States.

All crimes are not the same and we should remember this for the coming year when DHS produces statistics of record deportations of "criminal aliens."

OUR SERVICES

Joseph Law Firm, P.C. —

A full service immigration law firm for over ten years. We use our knowledge, teamwork, professionalism and expertise to provide the highest quality legal services and results to individuals and businesses, one client at a time.

Our attorneys are all members of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, the national association of Immigration attorneys.

We have successfully represented clients before the Citizenship and Immigration Service, the Immigration Courts, the Board of Immigration Appeals, and the Federal Courts.

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