



2021 AILA SPRING CLE VIRTUAL CONFERENCE: GOVERNMENT RELATIONS UPDATE

Join us for the 2021 AILA Spring CLE Virtual Conference to get an insider's view of what is happening at the government agencies! This conference provides a unique opportunity to hear directly from representatives of the new administration. Agency officials and AILA liaison committees will discuss the latest regulatory and policy initiatives affecting your practice and clients. You'll also learn about current trends, issues in agency adjudications, and potential future changes, and you'll receive a summary of the most recent liaison meeting discussions. The conference also will include a hot topics panel with updates on litigation, regulations, executive actions, and legislation. Don't miss it!

AILA's 2021 National Day of Action will also be held virtually the following week, Thursday, April 22, 2021. To find out more on how to register visit www.aila.org/NDA. Please note that participation is limited.

April 15, 2021
AILA National Virtual Conference

All Times Indicated Below Are Eastern Time

THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 2021

9:25 am–9:30 am

WELCOME AND GREETINGS

*Bennett Savitz, AILA USCIS HQ (Benefits Policy) Committee
Chair, Boston, MA*

9:30 am–10:30 am

**U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES (USCIS) OPEN
FORUM**

- Breaking News and Hot Topics

(DL) = Discussion Leader

** = invited, not confirmed*

Note: All sessions and events are subject to change without notice.

- H-1B Registration Recap
- Policy Memoranda Update
- Adjudications Trends and Update
- Field Office, InfoMod, and Contact Center Update

Faculty:

*Bennett Savitz (DL), AILA USCIS HQ (Benefits Policy)
Committee Chair, Boston, MA*

*Susan S. Im, AILA USCIS Case Assistance Committee Chair,
Grand Rapids, MI*

*Kathryn E. Anderson, Acting Deputy Chief, Operations Policy and
Strategy, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services,
Washington, DC*

*Connie L. Nolan, Acting Associate Director, Service Center Operations
Directorate, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services,
Washington, DC*

*Michael Valverde, Acting Associate Director, Field Operations
Directorate, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services,
Washington, DC*

*Carrie M. Selby, Acting Associate Director, External Affairs, U.S.
Citizenship and Immigration Services, Washington, DC*

10:30 am–11:00 am

VIRTUAL COFFEE BREAK

11:00 am–12:00 pm

*Attendees can choose to attend one of the two panels being offered at this
time and will have access to the full set of recordings.*

PANEL I:

**U.S. IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT (ICE) OPEN
FORUM**

- Transitioning Enforcement Priorities and Action
- Looking Ahead: Developments in Detention and Access to Counsel
- Leveraging Positive Change: The Meaning of Parole, Alternatives to Detention, and Bond
- A Conversation on Agreeing to Agree: Policies and Practices from Issuance of the NTA to the BIA
- Modern Concepts Related to Orders of Supervision, Stays of Removal, and Post-Order Custody Review

Faculty:

*Sui Chung (DL), AILA EOIR/ICE Joint Liaison Committee Chair,
Miami, FL*

*Aaron Hall, AILA EOIR/ICE Joint Liaison Committee Vice Chair,
Denver, CO*

*Claire Trickler-McNulty, Acting Director, Immigration and Program
Evaluation, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement,
Washington, DC*

John D. Trasviña, Principal Legal Advisor for U.S. Immigration and

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Customs Enforcement, Washington, DC
Michael P. Davis, Executive Deputy Principal Legal Advisor, U.S.
Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Washington, DC
Michael Bernacke, Chief of Staff, Enforcement and Removal
Operations, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement,
Washington, DC

PANEL II:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR (DOL) OPEN FORUM

- ETA Leadership and Budget Updates
- Processing Time Updates
- FLAG Updates
- Prevailing Wages and the 2018 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) System Roll-Out
- Current Trends

Faculty:

Sarah K. Peterson (DL), AILA Board of Governors/DOL Liaison
Committee Chair, Minneapolis, MN

Vincent W. Lau, DOL Liaison Committee Vice Chair, Boston, MA

Renata Adjibodou, Deputy Administrator, OFLC, National Prevailing
Wage Center, DOL, Washington, DC

Brian Testa, Director of Policy & Regulation, Employment and Training
Administration, Office of Foreign Labor Certification,
Department of Labor, Washington, DC

Kathy D. Valerin, Deputy Administrator, Employment and Training
Administration, Office of Foreign Labor Certification
Department of Labor, Washington, DC

Brandt Carter, Center Director, Atlanta National Processing Center,
Employment and Training Administration, Office of Foreign
Labor Certification Department of Labor, Washington, DC

Yasheka Magloire, Acting Center Director, National Prevailing Wage
Center, Employment and Training Administration, Office of
Foreign Labor Certification Department of Labor,
Washington, DC

Paul Gotte, National Prevailing Wage Center, Office of Foreign Labor
Certification, ETA, DOL, Washington, DC

12:00 pm–12:30 pm

LUNCH BREAK

12:30 pm–1:00 pm

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Esther M. Olavarria, Deputy Director, White House Policy Council,
Washington, DC

1:15 pm–2:15 pm

U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION (CBP) OPEN FORUM

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** = invited, not confirmed*

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- COVID-19 CBP Operational Impact, Highlights of CBP Strategy Plan 2021–26
- Latest CBP Pilot Programs/Transformation, Overview of the Work of the CBP Office of Intelligence
- Updates from Admissibility Review Office (ARO): Status of E-Safe, Biometric Capture, etc.
- CBP National Interest Exemptions (NIEs) and Satisfactory Departure Requests
- Considerations for Returning Residents to the United States After Absences Due to COVID-19
- New Trends and Issues

Faculty:

Alexis S. Axelrad (DL), AILA Board of Governors/CBP Liaison Committee Chair, New York, NY

Ramon E. Curiel, AILA CBP Liaison Committee Vice Chair, San Antonio, TX

Francis J. Russo, Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Office of Intelligence, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Office of Field Operations, Washington, DC

Fadia S. Pastilong, Director, Admissibility Review Office, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Washington, DC

Matthew Davies, Executive Director, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Office of Field Operations, Washington, DC

Stephanie E. Watson, Acting Director, Tactical Operations, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Office of Field Operations, Washington, DC

2:15 pm–2:45 pm

VIRTUAL COFFEE BREAK

2:45 pm–3:45 pm

Attendees can choose to attend one of the two panels being offered at this time and will have access to the full set of recordings.

PANEL I: EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR IMMIGRATION REVIEW (EOIR) OPEN FORUM

- Hot Topics: Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP), Adjudication Centers, and COVID-19
- Status of Memoranda and Regulations
- Changes to Practice Before the Immigration Court
- Updates in Case Processing and Review at the BIA
- The Bench and the Bar: Where Do We Go from Here?

Faculty:

Sui Chung (DL), AILA EOIR/ICE Joint Liaison Committee Chair, Miami, FL

Sarah Owings, AILA EOIR/ICE Joint Liaison Vice Chair, Atlanta, GA

Jean King, Acting Director, Executive Office for Immigration Review, Falls Church, VA

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Daniel H. Weiss, Principal Deputy Chief Immigration Judge, Office of the Chief Immigration Judge, Executive Office for Immigration Review, Falls Church, VA

Kathryn D. Sheehy, Chief Management Officer, Office of the Director, Executive Office for Immigration Review, Falls Church, VA

PANEL II: COMPLIANCE OPEN FORUM: CURRENT AND COVID DEVELOPMENTS

- Agency Overview and Objectives
 - Brief Overview of Mission, Areas of Focus
 - COVID-19 and Current Developments: Updates from the Past Year
- Practical Advice and Best Practices
 - Key Areas for Advice and Counsel to Avoid Investigations
 - What Each Agency Wants You to Know
 - Opportunities for Outreach Before, During, and After an Investigation

Faculty:

Katie Nokes Minervino (DL), Verification and Documentation Liaison Committee Chair, Portland, ME

Bob White, DOL Liaison Committee, Chicago, IL

Jennifer Deines, Acting Deputy Special Counsel, U.S. Department of Justice, Immigrant and Employee Rights Section (IER), Civil Rights Division, Washington, DC

Claire Trickler-McNulty, Acting Director, Immigration and Program Evaluation, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Washington, DC

Jennifer Lee, Senior Policy Advisor, Division of Immigration, Farm Labor, and Trade, WHD, Washington, DC

Amy Wheelock, Acting Verification Division Chief, Immigration Records and Identity Services Directorate, USCIS, Washington, DC

3:45 pm–4:15 pm

VIRTUAL COFFEE BREAK

4:15 pm–5:15 pm

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE (DOS) OPEN FORUM

- COVID-19 Travel Bans and National Interest Exceptions (NIEs)
- Consular Reopenings and Priorities
- National Visa Center (NVC) Update: Impact of Pandemic on Immigrant Visa Processing
- Visa Bulletin: Impact of Pandemic on Final Action Dates
- Impact of Pandemic on Administrative Processing/Security Advisory Opinions (SAOs)
- Legal Office Reorganization

Faculty

Sandra S. Reguerin (DL), AILA DOS Liaison Committee Chair, Phoenix, AZ

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Heather Drabek Prendergast, AILA DOS Liaison Committee Vice Chair, Cleveland, OH
Charles Oppenheim, Chief, Immigrant Visa Control & Reporting, U.S. Department of State, Washington, DC
Alex M. Jones, Director, National Visa Center (NVC), U.S. Department of State, Visa Office, Portsmouth, NH
Brianne Marwaha, Division Chief, Visa Office Field Operations, Department of State, Washington, DC

5:15 pm–5:30 pm

VIRTUAL COFFEE BREAK

5:30 pm–6:30 pm

HOT TOPICS AND UPDATES

- Agency Overview and Objectives
- Litigation and Regulation Update: Transition from Trump to Biden Administration
- Executive Action Update: Implementation of Biden’s Immigration Policies
- Legislation Update: Prospects for Progress
- Advocacy Update: National Day of Action (NDA) Preview

Faculty:

Jennifer Minear (DL), AILA President, Richmond, VA
Jesse M. Bless, AILA Director of Federal Litigation, Washington, DC
Gregory Chen, AILA Senior Director of Government Relations, Washington, DC
Sharvari (Shev) Dalal-Dheini, AILA Director of Government Relations, Washington, DC
Jorge Loweree, Policy Director, American Immigration Council, Washington, DC

6:45 pm

CONFERENCE CONCLUDES

CONFERENCE PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Bennett Savitz, AILA USCIS HQ (Benefits Policy) Committee Chair, Boston, MA
Alexis S. Axelrad, AILA Board of Governors/CBP Liaison Committee Chair, New York, NY
Sui Chung, AILA EOIR/ICE Joint Liaison Committee Chair, Miami, FL
Katie Nokes Minervino, Verification and Documentation Liaison Committee Chair, Portland, ME
Sarah K. Peterson, AILA Board of Governors/DOL Liaison Committee Chair, Minneapolis, MN
Sandra S. Reguerin, AILA DOS Liaison Committee Chair, Phoenix, AZ

Farshad Owji, AILA 2nd Vice President, San Francisco, CA

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Emmie R. Smith, AILA Director, Professional Development, Washington, DC

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