

PREFACE

I am thankful for the opportunity to serve as the editor for this second edition of *Immigration Options for Artists & Entertainers*. As was the first edition, published in 2007, this publication is a valuable resource for immigration practitioners seeking guidance on strategies and options for their clients in the sports and entertainment industries. The authors of the articles published here are seasoned and respected practitioners in these industries and we are honored to have their experiences and advice reflected on the pages herein.

Representation of immigration clients in the sports and entertainment industries is both unique and also similar to the representation of corporate and individual clients in other industries. For example, representation of a sports franchise is similar to the representation of any other corporate employer, with the exception that often the franchise's "assets," the players, are highly paid public figures. To the extent that there is a problem with a visa for a professional hockey player, it will likely end up in the newspaper. The representation of a major movie studio is again similar to the representation of any corporate client, but certainly different when the financing of a potential blockbuster film is contingent on the signing of a foreign film star who is currently deemed inadmissible to the United States.

We are hopeful that you will find this publication useful in the navigation of immigration topics unique to the sports and entertainment industries. By way of example, readers will gain guidance on such detailed topics as the strategic use of the P-1 visa within the Big Four of our major U.S. sports leagues and in the development leagues and amateur leagues. Additionally, readers will be able to reflect on the often tricky issues of deportability and inadmissibility involving foreign-national celebrities. Also contained within are informative articles on a variety of related topics, ranging from consular processing issues and potential roadblocks for artists, entertainers, and athletes to immigrant visa options for those foreign nationals looking to invest in sports, entertainment, and the arts.

With kind thanks to the authors and those involved in the periphery to bring this publication to our readers, I remain,

Rob Seiger
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