

## PREFACE

Although we as immigration lawyers usually have a general sense of what a “waiver” is in the immigration law context, this word is used somewhat loosely, including by Congress, the immigration agencies, and the courts, in reference to situations in which the government may make an exception to the normally applicable rules. Our clients, too, may not easily comprehend our use of the word “waiver.” Given its more common meaning of a release of liability, it may be necessary to explain to clients that when we use the word “waiver” we are referring to something the government grants as a benefit to them rather than rights they are giving up to the government.

The loose definition of the word “waiver” in the immigration context is one reason why we’ve expanded the scope of this fourth edition of *The Waivers Book*, which we now subtitle *Strategies for Overcoming Inadmissibility, Removability, and Other Barriers to Immigration Benefits*. Such strategies include not only applying for all the waivers of inadmissibility and removability denominated as such by sections 212 and 237 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, but also asking the government to exercise its waiver-like discretion under the law in your client’s favor in order to remove an obstacle that would otherwise prevent your client from entering the country, remaining in the country, or obtaining an immigration benefit. Thus, in this edition you will find articles on topics such as cancellation of removal, late-filed requests for change or extension of status, the special rules that apply to employment-based adjustment of status applicants, humanitarian reinstatement of revoked I-130 petitions, waivers of the I-751 joint filing requirement, F-1 reinstatement, accommodations for naturalization applicants who can’t take tests or the oath, and more.

Wherever immigration law erects a barrier, you can consult this book to learn whether there is a way to get the government to exercise its discretion to clear the path, and how best to make that happen. Let the experts who authored the articles in this book show you how to turn what initially looks like a “no” for your client into a “yes.”

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