

PREFACE

With the failure of Congress to enact comprehensive immigration reform legislation in the past year, and sweeping changes in the immigration laws seemingly on hold for a while, immigration law practitioners can take advantage of the lull by consolidating or deepening their knowledge of existing areas of immigration law, or even venture into new territories. This year's *Immigration & Nationality Law Handbook* is an indispensable resource in this regard, as it collects a wealth of information and practical advice from some of the foremost authorities in their fields.

As it does every year, the *Handbook* contains several extremely useful articles on law practice management, including a contribution this year from Jay Foonberg, the renowned author of *How to Get and Keep Good Clients* and *How to Start and Build a Law Practice*. You'll find expert analysis and guidance as well on the substantive law, including the intricacies of labor certification applications and PERM, the various family- and employment-based paths to immigrant and nonimmigrant visas, protected statuses, admissibility, waivers, and litigation issues, among other topics. Practitioners looking to expand their practice these days may need to ensure they have a sufficient understanding of the defenses available to the targets of increased enforcement efforts by ICE. This edition of the *Handbook* contains several timely articles around this theme.

The articles in this *Handbook* were written by panelists from the advanced and masters track sessions at the 2008 AILA annual conference, with contributions by several other authors writing on topics of current interest. Beginning practitioners and others seeking an understanding of the basic concepts underlying particular areas of immigration law also should obtain this book's conference companion, *Navigating the Fundamentals of Immigration Law: Guidance and Tips for Successful Practice*. AILA offers that tome, updated by panelists from the fundamentals track sessions, and Richard Boswell's *Essentials of Immigration Law*, to complement the more advanced-level and specialized articles contained in this *Handbook*.

Thanks go out to all the contributing authors for finding time on top of their busy work day—especially during a time of year when so many of them are deep in the throes of H-1B filings—to make this book happen. Special thanks are owed to the editors of the articles—Greg Adams, Dan Berger, Jan Brown, Leigh Cole, Jason Eyster, Carl Falstrom, Ester Greenfield, Romy Kapoor, Rod Malpert, Cyrus Mehta, Nancy-Jo Merritt, Steve Morley, Allen Orr, Jack Pinnix, Rita Sostrin, Bill Stock, Doug Stump, and Dev Viswanath. These colleagues of yours volunteer their time to ensure the articles you read are of the highest quality. Thanks also to my colleagues at AILA's Conferences department, especially Michelle Gergerian, Grace Akers, and Barry Collins, for organizing the lineup of authors. Special thanks go to the stellar staff of AILA Publications—Tatia L. Gordon-Troy, Danielle Polen, Kathy Jo Frazier, Kristine L. Tungol, and Mark Ryscavage—for their editorial assistance and production work on this year's *Handbook*.

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