

PREFACE

The first edition of AILA's *Immigration Options for Investors and Entrepreneurs* was a singular piece, helping to establish investor immigration as a subspecialty practice area and thereby filling the void in the immigration law publishing field where no book previously had covered exclusively the subject of investor immigration. That first edition covered the historical roots of investor immigration, the EB-5 category of immigration practice, alternatives to EB-5 practice, interdisciplinary subjects, as well as a comparative survey of investor immigration laws in other countries.

When I signed off on the first edition four years ago, I could faintly see on the distant horizon a second edition that would benefit tangibly from the cumulative practice experience of more AILA attorneys. This second edition has fulfilled my expectation.

The historical material on investor immigration has been reproduced here in the second edition. Other materials have been carefully shuffled and edited with the aim of delivering significant improvements in the offering of articles across the spectrum of subjects that make up the field of investor immigration.

Where this second edition is vastly changed from the first edition is in the section on EB-5 practice. And this should be no surprise, as EB-5 practice has shed its former pariah status, or so it seems. Over the past four years, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and other agencies have dedicated significant resources to the management of the EB-5 immigrant investor program, and ever-increasing numbers of AILA lawyers have made EB-5 practice a specialty area within their law firms. Naturally, then, there are new voices to be heard and featured in this second edition of *Immigration Options for Investors and Entrepreneurs*. In October 2009, AILA sponsored its first-ever continuing legal education conference on the EB-5 investor visa. A second such conference is scheduled for August 2010. These guidebooks and conferences signal more than merely an uptick in the prospects of those professionally invested in the EB-5 program, but more importantly, they represent a widespread commitment to the success of a practice area. A consequence is that more creativity, ideas, context, and experience are present when critical work must be done, whether that is in legal scholarship, liaison, advocacy, or client representation.

This second edition is graced by the exceptional legal skills and editorial talents of Cletus Weber, Susan Pilcher, Ed Carroll, and Amy Novick. They contributed hundreds of hours to working with individual authors to improve articles within a tight timeframe. We certainly could not have produced a book without their stalwart efforts.

Danielle Polen and the entire staff at AILA Publications ably managed this project, and we in the immigration bar thank Danielle, Tatia L. Gordon-Troy, and their team at AILA Publications for their dedication in completing this second edition.

In closing, some of the works are informational—a digest of history and current practice. Other works, especially in the EB-5 practice area, are more inclined to challenge the ever-evolving standards revealed by USCIS. It is not a stretch to call these latter works empowering, serving to convert disappointment, frustration, and even anger into something useful and durable. I have little doubt that the readers of this second edition will find much within the pages that follow to inspire, guide, and enrich the practice of representing investors and entrepreneurs.

Lincoln Stone
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