

About the Author

Ronald Y. Wada is senior counsel in the San Francisco office of Berry, Appleman & Leiden, LLP. Over the past several years, Ron has been in a unique position to observe the evolution of degree equivalency issues: He was the class administrator in the EB-2 class action litigation, *Chintakuntla v. INS*, which stimulated legacy Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to issue the “Cronin Memo” of March 20, 2000. The Cronin Memo has been memorialized in a nationwide permanent injunction and remains good authority today on U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) degree equivalency policies in the EB-2 category. Ron has been filing appeals and tracking unpublished Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) decisions involving degree equivalency issues ever since.

In 2005, while serving as chair of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) Amicus Committee, Ron consulted with the American Immigration Law Foundation (AILF) on the preparation of the AILF amicus brief filed in the EB-3 case, *Grace Korean United Methodist Church v. Chertoff*. In 2007, as a member of the AILA Nebraska Service Center (NSC) Liaison Committee, Ron worked with the NSC to understand, clarify, and publish the NSC’s interpretive policies regarding degree equivalency issues so that attorneys can at least be informed of what the rules are. His most recent efforts have resulted in substantial clarifications to degree equivalency determinations that were issued by the NSC and posted on AILA InfoNet.

Ron is a member of the editorial board of *Bender’s Immigration Bulletin* and has authored numerous articles on business immigration issues for publication in *Bender’s*, as well as in AILA’s *Immigration & Nationality Law Handbooks*. He is a 2006 recipient of an AILA Presidential Commendation, as well as AILF’s 1997 Edward L. Dubroff Award for Outstanding Scholarship in the Field of Immigration Law.