



Why YOU Need an IMMIGRATION LAWYER

By Kristen M. Jackson
Attorney at Law

If you need a visa to live, work or manage your investments in the U.S. or want to obtain a green card that grants you permanent residency, then pay heed to the old saying that “He who defends himself has a fool for a client and a fool for a lawyer.” The process sounds simple: complete and submit an application to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), and then attend an interview with an immigration official who will want to know why you should be admitted to the U.S. However, many times applications are not completed correctly, or are missing supporting documentation and evidence, and result in denial even before the interview occurs. Thus, hopes of entry into America are lost.

Hiring a lawyer experienced in immigration law can help ensure that your application is completed correctly.

Once your application is accepted by USCIS, an interview is scheduled. The tenor of the interview will often depend upon the personality of the immigration official. During the interview, you must defend the information contained in your application and provide convincing arguments as to why you should receive a visa or green card.

The official scrutinizes the application and asks numerous questions during the interview to determine if there is anything in your background or present circumstances that should prevent you from obtaining a visa or green card. Your lawyer can attend the interview to help you defend and substantiate your position.

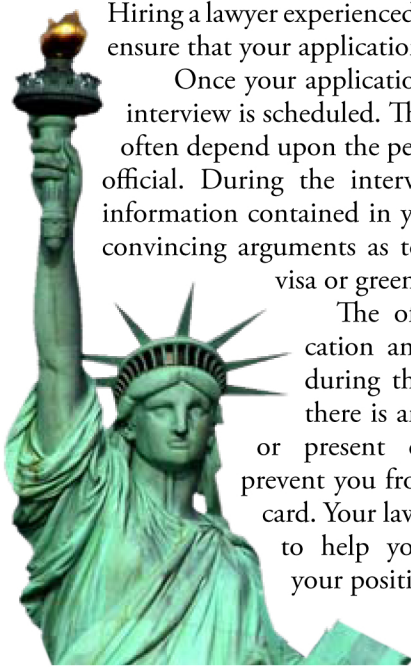
If your application is denied, you can appeal the decision of the immigration official; however, if you lose your appeal, it may take as long as 10 years or longer to obtain a visa. Some people will never be approved for entry into the U.S. once the application is denied. Correctly processing forms in a timely manner, as well as interpreting and understanding the immigration laws, is crucial to successfully obtaining a visa or green card.

An immigration lawyer can help you prepare your case and represent you before the administrative agency handling your application. An immigration lawyer can explain why your case meets the requirements of the law, help you resolve roadblocks that could give cause for denial and argue on your behalf before an appeals board.

Hiring an immigration lawyer the first time you apply for a visa can save you time and money. People often hire a lawyer after attempting to file applications on their own that result in denials. It is more difficult to reapply and remedy prior application errors; thus, hiring a lawyer, after a denial, will result in higher legal fees than if a lawyer was hired to help with the first application.

Whether you are applying for an investor visa, marriage visa, work visa or any other type of visa or green card, your best chance to obtain a visa or green card is to hire a lawyer experienced in immigration law.

Don't attempt to use do-it-yourself application packages or hire companies that advertise they guarantee you entry into the U.S. or permanent residence. There are no guarantees, and you may only get one opportunity to gain entry or obtain permanent status. To increase your chances of success in achieving the American Dream, hire an immigration lawyer. ■



Kristen M. Jackson, attorney and founding partner of the Jackson Montoya Law Firm (407-363-9020), has over 29 years of experience in estate planning, business, real estate and family law. She has earned an AV rating from Martindale Hubbell signifying the highest level of professional excellence as obtained through opinions from members of the Bar and Judiciary.



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