

Foreword to the Fifth Edition

The United States is a nation of immigrants. We all have our stories and our heritage. Sometimes through the generations we have forgotten what brought us here, the tribulations our ancestors experienced, and the deprivations they endured so that we all, one day, could sit in a comfortable chair and read these words. In writing this text, I wanted to highlight the intensely personal and poignant nature of immigration law. Behind every section or sub-section, behind every case, there is a human being or a family, or an entire group of people. Immigration law does not involve impersonal corporations or contracts; it does not garner litigants vast riches through the imposition of civil liability. But what it does do in every case - whether successful or not - is give you the joy of knowing that you have done your best and made a change in someone's life. Try doing that in corporate law. The rewards may not be quite so tangible, but the real wealth is undeniable.

I have tried to keep the structure of each chapter as consistent as possible. In general, each chapter will consist of the following sections:

- Introduction
- The law - actual text of the INA/IIRIRA, etc.
U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Sections as appropriate;
Internal INS and Department of State documentation - INS operations instruction (OI's) and DOS - foreign affairs manual (FAM).
- Analysis of the law
- Case Law - one or two actual cases in virtually full format from the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA), Federal Courts, etc.
- Case analysis
- Discussion/problems

Since this is a class offering a practical perspective on immigration law, I welcome my students' input, whether in the form of their own experiences or experiences they know of, or their questions and observations on immigration or any other area that affects immigration. As always, questions about law practice or ethical issues are always welcome for discussion.

Any errors in this text are mine and I take full responsibility. Any comments for improvement or correction will be gratefully accepted. Immigration law is a constantly and rapidly changing field. Hence I authored this text in the hope that I can adapt it quickly to any recent changes in the law that would be relevant in the context of this class. Hopefully, this text will also serve as a resource for my students in the future to identify and begin an analysis of immigration issues they may encounter in their practice.

Thanks to my devoted family who put up with long hours of work as an attorney in private practice coupled with my sometimes cranky personality. Thanks to my zealous secretary who cheerfully and willingly helped type up this manuscript for me.

A wise old judge once said to me: "The Law is a jealous mistress". Yes, that she is...but, oh, she can bring you so much intellectual pleasure!

One final word - whatever you decide to do in life - whether it be the practice of law or

something else - enjoy what you do.

Farhad Sethna; June 2009

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