

COMPETENCIES

Deciding/Processing Immigration Applications/Facilitating Movement of People

- Carried out acting assignments as visa officer at the Canadian High Commission in Accra, Ghana, and Canadian Embassy in Tirana, Albania
- Processed and decided applications for permanent residence, employment authorizations, student visas, and live-in caregiver applications
- Forged strong working relationships with key officials at Embassies and High Commissions including Program Managers
- Facilitated the movement and entry into Canada of large numbers of victims of genocide by interviewing candidates, preparing visa and other immigration landing documents, and working hand in hands with the UNHCR and members of a Canadian multi-disciplinary team, including doctors, immigration officers, visa officers, and locally engaged staff at the Canadian Embassy in Tirana, Albania

Business Immigration Expertise

- Delivered timely, cost-effective, and practical solutions to immigration clients, including Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) and Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA)
- Provided legal opinions and strategic advice on complex problems arising out of legal challenges in the Federal Court of Canada to decisions on business class applications, including applications under investor, self-employed, and entrepreneurial categories of regulations
- Developed in-depth knowledge and understanding of business class immigration programs, policies, procedures, and regulations
- Gained specialized knowledge and strong analytical skills with respect to the statutory interpretation and application of business class regulations through extensive litigation in the Federal Court of Canada and frequent consultations with key policy and litigation experts in Ottawa
- Acquired high level of proficiency in tackling and solving business immigrations problems from a unique government perspective gained through building solid relationships with immigration officers, program managers, and administrators in our Embassies, High Commissions, and Consulates all over the world

Project Management and Organization

- Designed orientation guide for new lawyers and paralegals containing sample memoranda of law and information on statutory interpretation and implementation of different classes of immigration programs and policies
- Organized and developed training modules for new lawyers and paralegals in immigration section
- Carried out acting assignments for departmental manager, screened new files and cases, evaluated their complexity and distributed files to lawyers based on their level of expertise and experience
- Collaborated with other lawyers in development and delivery of immigration training programs for front-line immigration officers and visa officers at St. Clair training centre for immigration officers
- Mentored and supervised new lawyers, secretaries, and paralegals

Written and Verbal Communication

- Researched and drafted complex memoranda of law and facts
- Vigorously defended business class immigration decisions in the Federal Court of Canada
- Engaged in extensive settlement discussions and negotiations with visa officers in the field and litigations analysts in Ottawa
- Conducted strategic risk management with respect to litigation files and pending litigation before the Federal Court with a view to minimizing negative impacts on government programs and policies in the area of corporate immigration
- Tenaciously and aggressively responded by way of oral and written arguments to numerous applications brought in the Federal Court challenging business class and other classes of decisions made by Canada's Embassies, Consulates, and High Commissions abroad
- Responded effectively to many applications for injunctions brought on short notice in the Federal Court by way of written and oral arguments
- Successfully argued against last-minute stay motions brought on an emergency basis
- Conducted quasi-judicial proceedings as a member of a administrative tribunal adjudicating refugee claims

- Prepared and rendered highly organized, well-reasoned, and persuasive oral and written decisions applying the law to the particular facts of the case in an administrative law setting
- Responded in writing to complex mandamus applications requesting that the Court compel our visa offices abroad to render a decision on a pending business class application forthwith or within a reasonable amount of time
- As an Immigration Hearings officer, Minister's counsel, and Refugee Hearings officer, conducted extensive and lengthy cross-examinations and prepared well written post-hearing submissions and closing arguments
- Collaborated with a team of lawyers, including the senior lead counsel at the Department of Justice in planning, researching, and drafting court documents in response to an appeal of a decision in a high profile citizenship case

Broad Exposure to Canadian Immigration Law

- As a legal adviser and litigator in the Immigration section of the Department of Justice, with a very heavy case load, worked on many different types of immigration cases, including deportation and sponsorship appeals, applications for permanent residence, live-in caregiver class applications, refugee abroad class applications, applications for visa extensions, re-instatement of status applications, immigration inquiries, admissibility hearings, detention reviews, humanitarian and compassionate applications, applications for pre-removal risk assessments (PRRA's), work permit and student visa applications, entrepreneurial, investor and self-employed business class applications
- As Minister's counsel, intervened in refugee hearings to exclude persons found culpable of the commission of international crimes, including war crimes, crimes against peace, and crimes against humanity
- As a visa officer in Albania and Ghana, processed applications for work permits, student visas, returning resident permits, and minister's permits
- Trained front-line port of entry officers and in-land immigration officers
- As refugee hearing officer, studied and applied international human rights and humanitarian law to refugee determination in Canada