



**DIANA VELLOS COKER**  
**Partner, Attorney at Law**

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Diana finds the practice of immigration law rewarding on many levels. Whether she is strategizing with a company regarding the immigration impact of a merger or explaining our complex immigration system to an individual seeking to make the U.S. their permanent home, she appreciates the challenges in our legal system and the real lives impacted by the immigration process. Diana understands her role as an attorney is not only to secure a specific immigration outcome as efficiently as possible but also to advise employers and individuals so they understand the process and feel empowered as a result.

Diana is an AV® Preeminent™ Peer Review Rated attorney whose practice includes a broad range of business immigration matters including hiring and retaining foreign national employees, implementing overall immigration policies and procedures, and compliance matters such as I-9 and LCA mock-audits and trainings. Her clients are from a variety of industries and include multinational corporations, start-ups, hospitals, educational institutions as well as individuals.

Improving our current immigration system is of critical importance for Diana. As a daughter of an immigrant, she has seen first-hand the real-life impact our immigration laws have on families and our community. She frequently speaks with members of Congress and their staff regarding immigration issues and has served on a grassroots taskforce to advocate for positive change. Diana serves as an Ambassador for the American Immigration Counsel and previously served on the Executive Committee for the San Diego chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association. Diana also lectures and writes on a variety of employment immigration topics ranging from L petitions, PERM labor certification applications, Adjustment of Status, and I-9s.

**EDUCATION**

**AMERICAN UNIVERSITY, Washington College of Law** – Washington, D.C.  
Juris Doctor, May 1997

**MACALESTER COLLEGE** – St. Paul, MN  
Bachelor of Arts, May 1994

Major – Political Science; Concentration – Philosophy; Minors - Spanish and Women’s Studies

## **BAR ADMITTANCE**

State of Illinois 11/97, District of Columbia 1/99, State of California 4/02

Admitted to practice:

US District Court for the Southern District of California

US District Court for the Northern District of Illinois

## **PUBLICATIONS**

Co-Author, Playing the Visa Bulletin Lotto: Managing Priority Dates, Cross-Chargeability and Multiple I-140 Filings, AILA Practice Pointer (2014).

Co-Author, An L-1 Survival Kit – Tips and Strategies in Today’s Environment, AILA Immigration and Nationality Law Handbook (2014).

Co-Editor, 25th Annual California Chapters Conference Handbook, AILA (2012).

Co-Author, It Ain't Over till BALCA Sings: Carrying your PERM through the Final Act of Appellate Review. AILA's Guide to PERM Labor Certification: Strategies, Samples and Guidance for Achieving Success (2011)

Co-Author, How Can I Ensure Success Post-Filing: Merger and Compliance Issues, AILA Immigration and Nationality Law Handbook (2011).

Author, A Matter of National Security, published in Reflections: My Life, My Country Seven Years After 9/11 (2008).

Immigrant Latina Domestic Workers and Sexual Harassment Issue, 5 American University Journal of Gender and the Law 407 (1997).

Excerpt of the article published in:

Women and the Law Casebook (Judi Greenberg et al. eds. 2d ed., 1998).

Sexual Harassment: Issues and Answers, edited by Linda LeMoncheck & James P. Sterba, New York: Oxford University Press 2000.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

*Playing the Visa Bulletin Lotto*, AILA Audio/Web Seminar, September 4, 2014.

*Top Tips for Filing L Petitions*, AILA National Conference, June 19, 2014.

*Introduction to Immigration Law*, Law Clerk Training, San Diego Chapter AILA, February 27, 2014.

*Immigration Impact of Corporate Mergers and Acquisitions*, North County Bar Association Immigration Law Section, February 25, 2014.

*H-1B Alternatives*, New Members Division, San Diego Chapter AILA, November 7, 2013.

*Professionalism and Ethics*, Law Clerk Training, San Diego Chapter AILA, September 12, 2013.

*Policies, Barriers, and Incentives for Skilled Labor Migration and Immigration: Healthcare as a Special Case*, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, November 8-9, 2011.

*How Can I Ensure Success Post-Filing: Merger and Compliance Issues*, AILA National Conference, June 17, 2011.

*Mergers and Acquisitions – Impact on Employment-Based NIV and IV Cases*, AILA Audio/Web Seminar, November 10, 2009.

*Immigration Reform*, Korean American Coalition National Spring Conference, April 17, 2009.

*I-9s and the E-Verify Program*, San Diego's Employers Association HR Roundtable, March 20, 2009.

*Immigration Law Workshop*, GIA Career Fair (October 19, 2007, October 26, 2006 & October 7, 2005).

*Adjustment of Status: A 360 Degree View*, ILW.com, September 27, 2007.

*L-1 Nonimmigrant Visas*, Young Lawyers Division, San Diego Chapter AILA, May 4, 2007.

*Losing Our Competitive Edge? The Impact of Immigration Policy on U.S. Science and Technology*, Sponsored by University of San Diego School of Law, University of San Diego Trans-Border Institute, San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, San Diego World Trade Center, San Diego Chapter of AILA, and Immigration Policy Center of the American Immigration Law Foundation, March 31, 2006.

*I-9 Compliance*, Young Lawyers Division, San Diego Chapter AILA, February 8, 2005.

## **MEMBERSHIPS/ASSOCIATIONS**

### **Current**

American Immigration Lawyers Association  
Advocacy Committee (Member, San Diego Chapter)

American Immigration Counsel (Ambassador)

Japan Society of San Diego and Tijuana (Board Member)

Lawyers Club of San Diego (Sustaining Member)

National Association of Women Business Owners (Advocacy Director)

**Prior Participation**

American Immigration Lawyers Association

Chair of the San Diego Chapter of AILA

Vice Chair of the San Diego Chapter of AILA

Treasurer (San Diego Chapter)

Secretary (San Diego Chapter)

Law School Liaison Committee (Chair, San Diego Chapter) Advocacy

Committee (Co-Chair, San Diego Chapter) USCIS District Office

Liaison Committee (San Diego Chapter) Tijuana Consulate Committee  
(San Diego Chapter)

Waiver Committee (National level)

**RECOGNITION**

AV® Preeminent™ Peer Review Rated

International Who's Who of Corporate Immigration Lawyers

International Who's Who of Business Lawyers

Who's Who Legal: California

Southern California Super Lawyers

Best Lawyers' 2013 San Diego "Lawyer of the Year" in Immigration Law

Best Lawyers in America

Nominated as one of San Diego's "2008 Top Attorneys", San Diego  
Daily Transcript