

Tiffney Johnson, Esq.

Immigration Attorney and Consular Immigration Consultant

tiffneyjohnson@ymail.com

(201) 492-3289

Education and Skills

- Arizona-licensed attorney
- 15 years of experience as a consular manager and adjudicator
- JD-University of Arizona, Summa Cum Laude, Order of the Coif-2019
- BS-University of Texas, Accounting-1996
- Spanish speaker
- Advanced Excel spreadsheet skills

Work Experience

Freelance Immigration Attorney and Consular Immigration Expert Consultant

June 2019 to Present

- Provide expert opinions to attorneys with clients facing complex consular immigration problems
- Develop case strategy and draft complete packets, including cover letters, experience letters, expert opinion letters, and other supporting documents for EB1, 2, 3 (including NIW cases and equivalent experience cases), O-1, PERM (job description, PWD, recruiting, and Labor Cert), family-based immigrant visas, E-1s and E-2 (NIV), and H1Bs, and RFEs
- Subject Matter Expert for Nolo Press on visa and passport topics, write articles and edit existing articles for content accuracy
- Write briefs and memos for immigration attorneys with cases in all jurisdictions, stages of appeal, and for all the relevant decision-making agencies including asylum briefs, I-601A waiver briefs, investor visa applications (non-immigrant and immigrant), and cancellation of removal briefs

Law Clerk

Michael Harwin, Attorney at Law

June 2017 to June 2019

- Research and provide analysis on case law, statutory law, administrative law, legislative history, and sentencing guidelines
- Provide expert consultation on criminal immigration consequences and consular immigration
- Draft motions to dismiss and motions to suppress for on primarily 4th amendment grounds
- Social media outreach
- Draft blogs on criminal defense and immigration-related topics
- Draft opinion letters for clients with potential immigration consequences to criminal convictions
- Draft opinion letters for clients facing potential loss of government security clearances

Consular Officer

Department of State

February 2002 to August 2016

Assistant Director

New York Passport Agency

September 2015 to August 2016

- Supervised 60 civil service employees ranging in grade from GS-5 to GS-13,
- Responsible for passport adjudication functions, building operations and fraud prevention
- Advised passport specialists on complex cases involving derivative citizenship, identity fraud, and document fraud
- Reviewed and approved formal denials of citizenship claims
- New York Passport Agency is the busiest passport counter in the U.S. and interviews up to 450 applicants a day for emergency same-day passport issuance

Deputy Consul General

U.S. Embassy - Tegucigalpa, HN
September 2012 to August 2015

- Served 8 months as Acting Consul General
- Supervised staff of 9 Junior Officers and 25 local employees
- Served as subject matter expert and final adjudication authority on all cases involving complex legal determinations of visa eligibility
- Personally conducted 30,000 non-immigrant visa interviews
- Operational responsibility for service to 500 applicants each day
- Trained 20 first tour Junior Officers on interviewing and adjudicating immigrant and non-immigrant visas
- Determined what action should be taken by the Embassy in the most complex cases, often after hours, involving Americans in distress (severe mental illness, incarcerated, critical health problems, and imminent threats to their personal security)
- Performed a comprehensive process review of the Immigrant Visa Unit's operations and streamlined the process so that 30% more cases could be interviewed per day and cases pending additional documents were reduced by 40%
- Worked with U.S. law enforcement to facilitate fugitive capture operations and other sensitive law enforcement actions requiring consular assistance; conduct visits with incarcerated Americans
- Consultant to DHS prior to implementation of in-country refugee processing in response to the Central American migration crisis, briefing them on country specific information they used to develop screening protocols

Deputy Consular Chief

U.S. Consulate General - Sydney NSW
August 2009 to August 2012

- Served one year as Acting Consular Section Chief
- Established first Fraud Prevention Unit
- Provided counseling and performed interviews for individuals wanting to renounce their U.S. citizenship
- Supervised all visa, citizenship, and provision of services to American citizens, including incarcerated citizens
- Researched and adjudicated complex citizenship and immigrant visa cases involving surrogate parentage, same sex partners, and gender changes
- Established procedures and protocols for the E3 work visa which is only available to Australians and New Zealanders, and streamlined process for E1 and E2 investor visas, prescreening cases and then contacting applicants so they knew exactly what to bring to the interview
- Analyzed economic benefit to the U.S. of the Australian working holiday visa when program was in danger of being cut and was able to justify the continuation of the program
- Subject matter expert on Australian criminal codes and U.S. equivalency for visa ineligibility determinations, including advising Australians on whether or not they could use visa waiver based on their purpose of travel or criminal history
- Personally conducted 30,000 interviews for non-immigrant visas, immigrant visas, and passports

Immigrant Visa Chief

U.S. Interests Section - Havana, CU
August 2007 to August 2009

- Implemented and promoted newly established Cuban Family Reunification Program, which expedited immigrant visas for Cubans for applicants previously subject to yearly numerical caps, to deter rafting migration
- Interviewed migrants returned to Cuba under "wet foot, dry foot" law, while they were aboard the Coast Guard vessel, then visited them subsequently in their homes to follow up on persecution claims, to monitor Cuban compliance with the Cuban Migration Accords
- After Obama took office, served as control officer for first Congressional delegation to visit in 3 years, and delegation's trip concluded with a meeting with Fidel Castro

- Worked diligently to maintain high morale among staff who were subjected to harassment, travel restrictions, and difficult living conditions
- Personally conducted 20,000 immigrant visa interviews

Consular Officer, Deputy Fraud Prevention Manager

U.S. Consulate General Ciudad Juarez - MX
January 2005 to July 2007

- Analyzed new regulations for determining eligibility based on the Affidavit of Support and supporting documentation provided by immigrant visa sponsors, trained 30 junior officers to ensure consistent determinations
- Led investigation trip on Texas border with ICE agents and developed Department of State database and protocols that are still used to detect birth certificates fraudulently filed by midwives
- Routinely adjudicated complex immigrant visa cases involving false claims to U.S. citizenship, multiple incidents of deportations and voluntary departures, and criminal ineligibilities
- Conducted week-long fraud orientation for new officers which included a night border tour with Border Patrol, tour of CBP immigration and customs operations, and visits to immigration detention and court

Visa Analyst

Visa Office-Legal Coordination Division - Washington, DC
November 2003 to January 2005

- Reviewed all visa applications from Russia, Former Soviet Union, and Asia (including North Korea and China) that were flagged for additional screening
- Ensured all agencies who needed to review the applications, completed their screening, prior to releasing the applications back to the overseas posts
- Analyzed information provided by other federal agencies to determine if it resulted in a finding of ineligibility
- Drafted standard operation procedure for special handling of clearances for diplomatic visas, with specific instructions for each country
- Drafted legal memos for approval by the Assistant Secretary, when recommending denial of a visa under a security related ineligibility

Human Resources Executive Office Washington DC-Budget Analyst

Washington, DC
February 2002 to November 2003

- Formulated and monitored 300-million-dollar Post Assignment Travel budget
- Performed cost benefit analysis of adding or rescinding travel benefits such as: business class for flights over 14 hours, travel with pets, and supplemental food shipments to remote posts
- Developed budgets for all costs of moving first permanent personnel and their effects to new embassies in Iraq and Afghanistan
- Evaluated special travel requests to determine if requests were within federal travel regulations

Logistics Cost Accounting Manager

1996 to 2002