

**REMOVAL DEFENSE: DEFENDING IMMIGRANTS IN IMMIGRATION COURT**

**4TH EDITION**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

|                  |  |           |
|------------------|--|-----------|
| <b>CHAPTER 1</b> | <b>INTRODUCTION TO REMOVAL PROCEEDINGS .....</b>   | <b>1</b>  |
| § 1.1            | Introduction .....   | 1         |
| § 1.2            | What's Inside.....   | 1         |
| § 1.3            | Immigration Proceedings: A Quick Overview .....  | 3         |
| § 1.4            | The Legal Framework for Removal Proceedings.....   | 8         |
| § 1.5            | The Concept of Admission.....  | 8         |
| § 1.6            | Deportation and Exclusion Proceedings before IIRIRA .....  | 14        |
| § 1.7            | The Grounds of Inadmissibility and Grounds of Deportability.....   | 15        |
| § 1.8            | Burdens of Proof .....   | 16        |
| <b>CHAPTER 2</b> | <b>MEETING YOUR CLIENT AND ASSESSMENT OF THE CASE.....</b>   | <b>21</b> |
| § 2.1            | Introduction .....   | 21        |
| § 2.2            | Attorney-Client Relationship: Some Basics .....  | 22        |
| § 2.3            | The Client Interview.....  | 24        |
| § 2.4            | A Closer Look at the Initial Meeting and the Intake Sheet .....  | 27        |
| § 2.5            | Subsequent Information-Gathering Meetings .....  | 28        |
| § 2.6            | Working with Vulnerable Clients.....   | 29        |
| § 2.7            | Analyzing Your Client's Case.....  | 33        |
| § 2.8            | Educating Your Client on Their Case .....  | 34        |
| § 2.9            | Asking the Client and Their Family to Do Work on the Case .....  | 35        |
| § 2.10           | Case Management .....  | 38        |
| § 2.11           | Gathering Information and the Lack of Discovery in<br>Immigration Proceedings .....  | 39        |
| § 2.12           | Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).....   | 40        |
| § 2.13           | Challenging the FOIA Response .....  | 46        |
| § 2.14           | Subpoenas.....   | 48        |
| § 2.15           | Criminal Documents.....  | 48        |
| <b>CHAPTER 3</b> | <b>NON-CRIMINAL GROUNDS OF INADMISSIBILITY .....</b>   | <b>57</b> |
| § 3.1            | Health-Related Grounds: Communicable Diseases, Required<br>Vaccinations, Dangerous Disorders, and Addiction and Abuse..... | 58        |
| § 3.2            | Alien Smuggling, INA § 212(a)(6)(E) .....  | 64        |
| § 3.3            | Fraud and Misrepresentation .....  | 70        |
| § 3.4            | False Claim to U.S. Citizenship .....  | 74        |
| § 3.5            | Inadequate Documentation and Document Fraud .....  | 81        |
| § 3.6            | Likely to Become a Public Charge.....  | 85        |
| § 3.7            | Entry, Admission, and Effective Dates .....  | 96        |
| § 3.8            | Unlawfully Present in the United States Without Being Admitted or<br>Paroled.....  | 97        |

|  |   |            |
|--|---|------------|
| § 3.9  | Three- and Ten-Year Bars for Those Unlawfully Present Who Depart and Then Apply for Admission .....   | 99         |
| § 3.10   | “Permanent Bar” for Those Who Were Unlawfully Present for More than One Year or Were Ordered Removed, and Who Subsequently Enter or Attempt to Enter without Being Admitted ..... | 113        |
| § 3.11   | The Differences between “Unlawful Presence” and “Unlawful Status” .....   | 120        |
| § 3.12   | Failure to Attend Removal Proceedings .....   | 122        |
| § 3.13   | Past Removal, Deportation, or Exclusion .....   | 125        |
| § 3.14   | Other Grounds: Terrorists, Draft Dodgers, Unlawful Voters, Stowaways, Child Abductors .....   | 129        |
| <b>CHAPTER 4</b>   | <b>NON-CRIMINAL GROUNDS OF DEPORTABILITY .....</b>  | <b>139</b> |
| § 4.1  | Inadmissible at Entry or Adjustment .....   | 140        |
| § 4.2  | Present in Violation of Law .....   | 141        |
| § 4.3  | Violated Nonimmigrant Status .....  | 141        |
| § 4.4  | Violation of Condition of Entry .....   | 143        |
| § 4.5  | Marriage Fraud .....  | 143        |
| § 4.6  | Failure to Register and Falsification of Documents .....  | 145        |
| § 4.7  | Public Charge .....   | 146        |
| § 4.8  | Smuggling .....   | 148        |
| § 4.9  | Other Grounds of Deportability That Are Similar to Grounds of Inadmissibility .....   | 149        |
| <b>CHAPTER 5</b>   | <b>CRIMES AND THE GROUNDS OF DEPORTABILITY, INADMISSIBILITY AND BARS TO ESTABLISHING GOOD MORAL CHARACTER.....</b>  | <b>151</b> |
| Part One: Introduction to Analyzing Criminal Convictions ..... |   |            |
| § 5.1  | Clients with Criminal Records .....   | 151        |
| § 5.2  | Deportability, Inadmissibility, and the Burden of Proof in Removal Proceedings .....  | 155        |
| § 5.3  | Immigration Definition of a Criminal Conviction and Sentence .....  | 158        |
| § 5.4  | How to Analyze an Offense: The Categorical Approach .....   | 166        |
| Part Two: Criminal Provisions in Immigration Law .....         |   |            |
| § 5.5  | Overview of Immigration Consequences of Crimes .....  | 179        |
| § 5.6  | Inadmissibility and Deportability Based on Drug Offenses .....  | 182        |
| § 5.7  | Crimes Involving Moral Turpitude: Definition .....  | 195        |
| § 5.8  | The Moral Turpitude Ground of Inadmissibility: Petty Offense and Youth Exceptions, Admissions of Conduct .....  | 199        |
| § 5.9  | The Moral Turpitude Ground of Deportability .....   | 201        |
| § 5.10   | Firearms Offenses .....   | 204        |
| § 5.11   | Aggravated Felonies .....   | 207        |
| § 5.12   | Other Removal Grounds: Domestic Violence, Prostitution, Two or More Convictions with a Sentence of Five Years; Traffickers in Persons .....                                       | 211        |
| § 5.13   | Clearing Up a Criminal Record .....   | 217        |
| § 5.14   | The Good Moral Character Requirement .....  | 220        |

|                  |   |            |
|------------------|---|------------|
| <b>CHAPTER 6</b> | <b>REPRESENTING DETAINED CLIENTS IN BOND HEARINGS .....</b>                 | <b>223</b> |
| § 6.1            | Introduction to the Immigration Detention System.....                       | 223        |
| § 6.2            | Representing Detained Clients: Special Challenges.....                      | 224        |
| § 6.3            | Securing Release for Your Client.....                                       | 230        |
| § 6.4            | Avoiding Initial Custody by ICE: ICE Detainers.....                         | 230        |
| § 6.5            | Custody Determination.....  | 233        |
| § 6.6            | Venue and Timing: Where and When to Request a Bond Hearing.....             | 236        |
| § 6.7            | Mandatory Detention.....  | 237        |
| § 6.8            | Challenging Mandatory Detention and Prolonged Detention .....               | 242        |
| § 6.9            | Children and Bond .....   | 248        |
| § 6.10           | Bond Hearings for Clients with Serious Mental Disorders or Conditions ..... | 249        |
| § 6.11           | Preparing for the Bond Hearing .....  | 250        |
| § 6.12           | Proving the Bond Case .....   | 250        |
| § 6.13           | Posting the Bond .....  | 259        |
| <b>CHAPTER 7</b> | <b>PRELIMINARY MATTERS: THE NTA AND ENTERING PLEADINGS .....</b>            | <b>261</b> |
| § 7.1            | The NTA and the Initiation of Removal Proceedings .....                     | 261        |
| § 7.2            | Master Calendar Hearings and Scheduling Orders .....                        | 262        |
| § 7.3            | Preparation Before the Master Calendar Hearing and Pleadings .....          | 265        |
| § 7.4            | General Procedures During a Master Calendar Hearing .....                   | 268        |
| § 7.5            | Pleading to the Notice to Appear .....                                      | 272        |
| § 7.6            | When and Whether to Concede Removability .....                              | 280        |
| § 7.7            | Special Considerations for Unaccompanied Minors and Children .....          | 283        |
| § 7.8            | Evidentiary Considerations; Motions to Suppress .....                       | 288        |
| § 7.9            | After the Master Calendar Hearing .....                                     | 306        |
| <b>CHAPTER 8</b> | <b>TRIAL PRACTICE: MOTIONS AND THE INDIVIDUAL HEARING .....</b>             | <b>309</b> |
| § 8.1            | Introduction .....  | 309        |
| § 8.2            | Using Agency Policy to Your Advantage .....                                 | 310        |
| § 8.3            | Strategy Considerations.....  | 314        |
| § 8.4            | Document Submission.....  | 321        |
| § 8.5            | Rules and Procedures .....  | 322        |
| § 8.6            | Preserving the Record .....   | 323        |
| § 8.7            | Testimony .....   | 325        |
| § 8.8            | Opening and Closing Statements .....  | 329        |
| § 8.9            | Judge's Decision .....  | 330        |
| § 8.10           | Filing Motions .....  | 331        |
| <b>CHAPTER 9</b> | <b>FILING FOR RELIEF.....</b>   | <b>343</b> |
| § 9.1            | Introduction .....  | 343        |
| § 9.2            | Jurisdiction over Relief .....  | 343        |
| § 9.3            | Special Considerations for Adjustment of Status.....                        | 347        |
| § 9.4            | Special Considerations for TPS (Temporary Protected Status).....            | 350        |

|                   |   |            |
|-------------------|---|------------|
| § 9.5             | Special Considerations for Asylum .....   | 353        |
| § 9.6             | Filing Applications and Documents .....   | 355        |
| § 9.7             | Strategies While Awaiting a Decision by USCIS .....   | 357        |
| § 9.8             | Prosecutorial Discretion .....  | 361        |
| § 9.9             | Voluntary Departure.....  | 370        |
| <b>CHAPTER 10</b> | <b>INTRODUCTION TO NON-LPR CANCELLATION OF REMOVAL,<br/>FORMER SUSPENSION OF DEPORTATION, VAWA CANCELLATION OF<br/>REMOVAL, AND NACARA SUSPENSION AND CANCELLATION OF<br/>REMOVAL .....</b> | <b>377</b> |
|                   | Part One: The Law of Non-LPR Cancellation of Removal.....   | 378        |
| § 10.1            | Overview of the Law.....  | 378        |
| § 10.2            | Introduction to Cancellation of Removal under INA § 240A(b)(1) (“Non-LPR Cancellation”) .....   | 379        |
| § 10.3            | Continuous Physical Presence for Non-LPR Cancellation .....   | 382        |
| § 10.4            | Good Moral Character and Criminal Bars in Non-LPR Cancellation.....   | 392        |
| § 10.5            | Exceptional and Extremely Unusual Hardship for Non-LPR Cancellation .....   | 407        |
| § 10.6            | Discretion .....  | 415        |
| § 10.7            | Judicial Review .....   | 417        |
|                   | Part Two: The Law of Suspension of Deportation .....  | 418        |
| § 10.8            | Introduction to Suspension of Deportation.....  | 418        |
| § 10.9            | Continuous Physical Presence for Suspension of Deportation.....   | 422        |
| § 10.10           | Good Moral Character for Suspension of Deportation.....   | 424        |
| § 10.11           | Hardship for Suspension of Deportation .....  | 424        |
|                   | Part Three: Cancellation of Removal for Spouses and Children Who Have Been Battered or Victims of Extreme Cruelty .....   | 426        |
| § 10.12           | Introduction to VAWA “Special Rule” Cancellation and Suspension.....  | 426        |
| § 10.13           | Establishing the Family Relationship for VAWA Cancellation and Suspension .....   | 429        |
| § 10.14           | Battery or Extreme Cruelty for VAWA Cancellation and Suspension .....   | 432        |
| § 10.15           | Three Years of Continuous Physical Presence for VAWA Cancellation and Suspension .....  | 434        |
| § 10.16           | Inadmissibility and Deportability Bars to VAWA Cancellation .....   | 435        |
| § 10.17           | Good Moral Character for VAWA Cancellation.....   | 437        |
| § 10.18           | Extreme Hardship for VAWA Cancellation.....   | 438        |
| § 10.19           | VAWA Cancellation Compared with VAWA Self-Petitioning .....   | 440        |
| § 10.20           | Motions to Reopen in the VAWA Context .....   | 441        |
|                   | Part Four: NACARA for Guatemalans, Salvadorans, and Former Soviet Bloc Nationals.....   | 441        |
| § 10.21           | Introduction to NACARA .....  | 441        |
| § 10.22           | Continuous Physical Presence for NACARA .....   | 444        |
| § 10.23           | Hardship for NACARA.....  | 445        |
| § 10.24           | Good Moral Character for NACARA .....   | 446        |
| § 10.25           | NACARA Suspension and Cancellation for Those with Certain Crimes .....  | 447        |

|   |  |            |
|---|--|------------|
| <b>CHAPTER 11</b>   | <b>APPLYING FOR CANCELLATION OF REMOVAL (FOR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENTS) UNDER INA § 240A(A) AND THE § 212(C) WAIVER .....</b> | <b>449</b> |
| § 11.1  | Introduction: Cancellation of Removal and the Former § 212(c) Waiver.....  | 449        |
| Part One: Legal Requirements for 240A(a) Cancellation of Removal for Lawful Permanent Residents ..... | 450  |            |
| § 11.2  | Overview of Legal Requirements.....  | 450        |
| § 11.3  | Removal Grounds That Can Be Waived by Cancellation of Removal .....  | 452        |
| § 11.4  | Lawful Permanent Resident Status for at Least Five Years .....   | 454        |
| § 11.5  | Seven Years Continuous Residence After Admission .....   | 457        |
| § 11.6  | Never Convicted of an Aggravated Felony .....  | 475        |
| § 11.7  | Other Bars to Eligibility .....  | 475        |
| Part Two: Discretion—Persuading the Judge to Grant the Relief.....                                    | 476  |            |
| § 11.8  | Proving That Your Client Merits a Favorable Exercise of Discretion .....   | 476        |
| § 11.9  | Proving Rehabilitation: The Three-Part Story Approach.....   | 483        |
| § 11.10   | Preparing the Client for the Hearing .....   | 486        |
| Part Three: Applying Today for the Former § 212(c) Relief.....  | 488  |            |
| § 11.11   | Legal Requirements for Applying for § 212(c) Relief in Removal Proceedings .....   | 488        |
| <b>CHAPTER 12</b>   | <b>ASYLUM AND RELATED RELIEF: ASYLUM, WITHHOLDING, CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE .....</b>  | <b>503</b> |
| Part One: An Overview—Procedural Consideration, Strategy and Bars to Eligibility .....                | 503  |            |
| § 12.1  | Overview of Asylum Law .....   | 503        |
| § 12.2  | Defensive Asylum in Removal Proceedings .....  | 504        |
| § 12.3  | Comparing Asylum and Withholding of Removal.....   | 507        |
| § 12.4  | Relief Under the Convention Against Torture .....  | 511        |
| § 12.5  | The “Asylum Clock” and Qualifying for Work Authorization .....   | 514        |
| § 12.6  | Statutory Bars to Asylum That Do Not Apply to Withholding of Removal .....   | 515        |
| § 12.7  | Bars to Both Asylum and Withholding of Removal .....   | 529        |
| Part Two: The Legal Standard for Asylum, Corroboration, and Credibility.....                          | 538  |            |
| § 12.8  | The Statute: Legal Requirements for Eligibility for Asylum .....   | 538        |
| § 12.9  | Well-Founded Fear of Persecution.....  | 538        |
| § 12.10   | Past Persecution.....  | 539        |
| § 12.11   | What Is Persecution?.....  | 544        |
| § 12.12   | Persecutors: Government and Non-Governmental Forces .....  | 546        |
| § 12.13   | Connecting Persecution to the “Enumerated Grounds” .....   | 547        |
| § 12.14   | The Meaning of the Protected Grounds.....  | 550        |
| § 12.15   | Credibility and Frivolous Applications .....   | 576        |
| § 12.16   | The REAL ID Act and Corroboration.....   | 581        |
| <b>CHAPTER 13</b>   | <b>PREPARING AND FILING APPEALS .....</b>  | <b>585</b> |
| § 13.1  | When to File the Notice of Appeal.....   | 586        |

|                   |   |            |
|-------------------|---|------------|
| § 13.2            | What to Submit with the Notice of Appeal .....  | 587        |
| § 13.3            | Stating the Basis for Appeal in the Notice of Appeal .....                              | 588        |
| § 13.4            | Where to File the Notice of Appeal.....   | 589        |
| § 13.5            | Identifying Issues for a BIA Appeal.....  | 592        |
| § 13.6            | Briefing Schedule.....  | 598        |
| § 13.7            | Where to File the Brief and Contents of the Brief.....                                  | 600        |
| § 13.8            | Presenting the Facts in a Brief.....  | 601        |
| § 13.9            | Techniques for Persuasive Legal Writing and Crafting the Argument .....                 | 602        |
| § 13.10           | Standards of Review.....  | 605        |
| § 13.11           | Exhaustion.....   | 606        |
| § 13.12           | Next Steps if the Respondent Loses the Appeal before the BIA.....                       | 607        |
| <b>CHAPTER 14</b> | <b>MOTIONS TO REOPEN .....</b>  | <b>609</b> |
| § 14.1            | Introduction to Motions to Reopen .....   | 609        |
| § 14.2            | Comparing Motions to Reopen, Remand, and Reconsider .....                               | 610        |
| § 14.3            | General Requirements for Reopening Removal Proceedings .....                            | 611        |
| § 14.4            | Exceptions to Time and Numerical Limitations.....                                       | 611        |
| § 14.5            | Where to File the Motion .....  | 613        |
| § 14.6            | Effect of Departure from the United States.....   | 613        |
| § 14.7            | Proving <i>Prima Facie</i> Eligibility for Relief.....                                  | 615        |
| § 14.8            | Exceptions Where Changed Circumstances Give Rise to Eligibility<br>for Asylum.....      | 615        |
| § 14.9            | Motions to Reopen Involving Prior Ineffective Assistance of Counsel .....               | 617        |
| § 14.10           | Overview of MTRs Challenging <i>In Absentia</i> Removal Orders.....                     | 628        |
| § 14.11           | Reopening <i>In Absentia</i> Removal Orders Based on<br>Exceptional Circumstances ..... | 629        |
| § 14.12           | Reopening <i>In Absentia</i> Removal Orders Based on Lack of Notice .....               | 631        |
| § 14.13           | Joint and <i>Sua Sponte</i> Motions to Reopen .....                                     | 638        |
| § 14.14           | Discretionary Factors Relevant to Motions to Reopen.....                                | 641        |

**TABLE OF APPENDICES**

|             |  |      |
|-------------|--|------|
| Appendix A  | Sample Notices to Appear .....   | 643  |
| Appendix B  | Sample Record of Deportable Alien, Form I-213 .....  | 649  |
| Appendix C  | Sample Notice of Custody Determination, Form I-286 .....   | 652  |
| Appendix D  | Sample Client Interview Tools.....   | 653  |
| Appendix E  | FOIA Materials: Sample Electronic and Paper Requests to USCIS,<br>EOIR, ICE, CBP.....  | 667  |
| Appendix F  | Sample Record Requests: California Record Check and FBI Criminal<br>History Background Check .....   | 683  |
| Appendix G  | Sample Engagement Letter .....   | 694  |
| Appendix H  | Bond Hearing Worksheet and Checklists Florence Immigration Court<br>Bond Worksheet Custody Hearing Checklist.....                            | 697  |
| Appendix I  | Bond Hearing Motions: <i>Joseph</i> Motion and Changed Circumstances<br>Motion .....   | 701  |
| Appendix J  | Scheduling Order and Sample Written Pleadings .....  | 736  |
| Appendix K  | Motion to Terminate Under <i>Matter of Fernandes</i> (Deficient NTA).....  | 746  |
| Appendix L  | Online Detainee Locator System Brochure in English and Spanish .....   | 749  |
| Appendix M  | Notices of Appearance; EOIR E-Registration & ECAS Instructions.....  | 753  |
| Appendix N  | Form E-33, Change of Address Form .....  | 765  |
| Appendix O  | Instructions for Defensive Applications and for Providing Biometrics .....   | 767  |
| Appendix P  | Motion to Suppress.....  | 769  |
| Appendix Q  | Final IJ Decision Materials: Sample Order of the Immigration Judge,<br>Sample Post-Order Instructions, and Voluntary Departure Advisals..... | 824  |
| Appendix R  | Sample Proposed Order and Proofs of Service .....  | 827  |
| Appendix S  | Sample Motions and Witness List.....   | 831  |
| Appendix T  | Non-LPR Cancellation of Removal Document Materials.....  | 866  |
| Appendix U  | Sample Release of Information Consent Form .....   | 886  |
| Appendix V  | Sample Letters of Support.....   | 887  |
| Appendix W  | Asylum Materials: Evidence Filings and Prehearing Statement .....  | 898  |
| Appendix X  | LPR Cancellation of Removal Materials: Application, Supporting<br>Evidence, and Legal Briefs .....   | 932  |
| Appendix Y  | Sample Testimony Outlines .....  | 963  |
| Appendix Z  | Unlawful Presence FAQ.....   | 981  |
| Appendix AA | EOIR Memoranda: Pre-Hearing Conferences, Off-Docket Initiative,<br>Status Conferences .....  | 984  |
| Appendix BB | Appeal materials.....  | 993  |
| Appendix CC | Sample Motions to Reopen .....   | 1013 |