



Three-Part Telephone & E-mail Seminar:

## Adjustment Of Status: A 360 Degree View

*Speakers: Cyrus D. Mehta, Richard D. Steel, Diana Velloso Coker,  
Tammy Fox-Isicoff, Shannon M. Underwood And Paul Virtue*

### What is ILW.COM?

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*Disclaimer: participation in this seminar does not create an attorney-client relationship with the speakers.*

### Seminar Outline

#### FIRST Phone Session on September 27: Nuts and Bolts In The Era Of Priority Date Retrogression

- Eligibility for Adjustment of Status
- Preparing and filing a bullet proof application
- Issues arising out of the July 2007 Visa Bulletin Fiasco
- Adjustment, retrogression and retention of priority dates
- Intersection between Adjustment and the Child Status
- Protection Act
- Adjustment over Consular Processing: Benefiting from Portability
- Travel and work authorization

#### SECOND Phone Session on October 18: Resuscitating Status Through Adjustment

- Exploiting the 245(c) technical failure exception
- Understanding the 180 day grace period under Section 245(k)
- Grandfathering under Section 245(i) - analyzing recent case law
- Other exceptions: Immediate Relatives and Battered Immigrants
- Waivers of inadmissibility in conjunction with adjustment filing
- Adjustment for Special Categories: Asylees, Cubans, Hatians, etc.

#### THIRD Phone Session on November 1: Adjustment In Removal Proceedings

- Reopening old deportation or removal orders
- Adjustment after pre-1996 exclusion order
- Understanding the new "arriving alien" regulations
- Retaining portability in removal - overview of emerging case law
- Remands to District Director vs. merits hearing before Immigration Judge
- Seeking continuances until adjustment eligibility
- Adjustment as a defense to crimes-based removability

### Signup

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### SELECT YOUR DATES

[ ] Sept 27 CD [ ] Oct 18 CD [ ] Nov 1 CD 2.00pm to 3.30pm ET (11.00am to 12.30pm PT)

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(→ see next page for speaker bios)



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### About the Speakers

**Cyrus D. Mehta** (Discussion Leader) was the Secretary and member of the Executive Committee of the New York City Bar Association (2003-2007). He is also the former Chair (2000-2003) of the Committee on Immigration and Nationality Law of the same Association. He was also a Trustee of the Association's City Bar Justice Center, which organizes attorneys' pro bono activities in New York City (2001-2007). He has recently been appointed to the Board of Directors of Volunteers of Legal Services, Inc. Between 2004 and 2006, Mr. Mehta was the Chairman of the American Immigration Law Foundation (AILF) - an immigration think tank that advances the positive impact of immigration in this country and also conducts litigation on behalf of immigrants. He established for AILF a prestigious annual event in New York City that honors outstanding immigrants in various fields of endeavor, and continues to be active as an emiritus trustee for AILF in New York. He co-authored a report that analyzed parallels in the government's policy toward Japanese Americans following the attack on Pearl Harbor and non-citizens of certain nationalities post-September 11. Mr. Mehta is a frequent speaker at conferences of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) and has served on its national committees. In 1997-1998, he was the Chair of AILA's Young Lawyers Division and also won the 1997 Joseph Minsky Young Lawyers Award for outstanding contributions in the immigration field. He is presently the Co-Chair of the AILA-NY Chapter Pro-Bono Committee. Newspapers and television constantly seek Mr. Mehta out for his expert opinions on immigration law and policy. He is regularly quoted in mainstream, ethnic and foreign newspapers. Furthermore, Mr. Mehta speaks, debates and conducts training workshops on various immigration topics under the aegis of non-profits and universities. He is also a featured speaker at immigration seminars of the Practising Law Institute. Mr. Mehta is also the author of several articles that have appeared in professional publications such as Interpreter Releases, Immigration Briefings, Bender's Immigration Bulletin, Immigration Today and AILA's Immigration and Nationality Handbook, as well as countless popular articles that appear on [www.ilw.com](http://www.ilw.com). Mr. Mehta graduated with a BA degree from St. Xavier's College, Bombay University, and subsequently obtained law degrees from Cambridge University, England (MA in Law), and Columbia Law School, New York (LL.M). He is admitted to the New York bar. In his spare time, Mr. Mehta plays the violin.

**Andres Benach** leads a group of attorneys and specialized paralegals who focus on complex removal, asylum, naturalization, adjustment of status, waivers of inadmissibility and federal litigation cases. Recognized as among The Best Lawyers in America, and listed as one of Washington DC's top immigration lawyers by Washingtonian magazine, Andres has successfully represented hundreds of individuals in all areas of immigration law before the immigration agencies, in the immigration courts and in federal court. Andres began his career in immigration law in 1997 as a Law Clerk in the Office of the Deputy Attorney General at the U.S. Department of Justice. Andres is a frequent speaker at national and local attorney's conferences and has been featured in many publications including Legal Times, National Public Radio, and the Washington Post. A 1998 cum laude graduate of George Washington Law School, Andres received his B.A. from Boston College. Andres speaks Spanish.

**Diana Vellos Coker** is a Co-Managing Partner of Larrabee| Mehlmán | Albi| Coker LLP, a national law practice dedicated to providing employment-based immigration services. Ms. Coker was awarded a Juris Doctor degree from The Washington College of Law at American University in Washington, D.C. Prior to law school, Ms. Coker obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota. Ms. Coker joined the firm in 2001. Prior to joining Larrabee| Mehlmán | Albi| Coker LLP, Ms. Coker previously practiced immigration law for Lichtman, Trister, Singer & Ross in Washington, D.C. She has over 10 years of experience in the field of immigration law. Ms. Coker is licensed to practice law in California, Illinois, and Washington, D.C. and is admitted to practice in the US District Court for the Southern District of California and the US District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. Together with Sharon Mehlmán and Fausta Albi, Ms. Coker is responsible for all aspects of Firm management and provides legal counsel on immigration matters to corporate clients, hospitals, and educational institutions. Ms. Coker's practice focuses on corporate immigration matters for the high-tech, pharmaceutical/biotech and health care industries including implementing overall immigration policies and procedures. Ms. Coker is a member of the American Bar Association, the San Diego Bar Association, and the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA). Ms. Coker currently serves as Co-Chair of the San Diego AILA Chapter's Advocacy Committee and on the San Diego USCIS District Office Liaison Committee. Ms. Coker also serves as a Board Member of the Japan Society of San Diego and Tijuana and on the Host Committee for the Kyoto Laureate Symposium Gala. Ms. Coker has published in the field of immigration law and frequently speaks with members of Congress and their staff regarding corporate immigration issues. She is named as one of 49 corporate immigration attorneys in Who's Who Legal: California 2007.

**Tammy Fox-Isicoff** is a graduate cum laude of the University of Miami School of Law. She joined the U.S. Department of Justice in 1983 as a trial attorney with INS and went on to serve as Special Assistant U.S. Attorney for Immigration in the Southern District of Florida. She entered private practice in 1988, focusing on immigration. She has earned an "AV" rating from Martindale-Hubbell and is certified by the Florida Bar as a Specialist in Immigration and Nationality Law. Ms. Fox-Isicoff is a past president of the South Florida chapter of AILA and currently serves on the national Board of Governors of AILA. She has chaired numerous committees at the AILA national level including the Media, Congressional and Bar Association Committees. Ms. Fox-Isicoff is the recipient of several presidential awards from AILA for her advocacy of immigrants. She has also been selected to represent AILA to the American Bar Association's Immigration Coordinating Committee and is a member of the Florida Bar's Certification Committee in Immigration and Nationality Law. She has served as a legal expert on immigration law for various news sources and has appeared on "NBC Today" and "The CBS Morning Show" on a number of occasions. Ms. Fox-Isicoff has published numerous articles on immigration topics and is a frequent local and national lecturer. Listed in the Best Lawyers in America and in South Florida Legal Guide as one of the top lawyers in South Florida, Ms. Fox-Isicoff is widely recognized as a national expert on all areas of immigration.

**Richard D. Steel** graduated from Dickinson College with honors in 1963 and from the University of Pennsylvania Law School in 1966. He served as a Captain in the Judge Advocate General's Corps of the United States Army, and from 1971 to 1974, as an Assistant District Attorney in Philadelphia. In 1974, he entered private practice exclusively in the immigration and nationality field. Mr. Steel is the author of Steel on Immigration Law 2d, published by West Publishing, and its predecessor volume, Steel on Immigration Law. He is also the author of numerous articles appearing in law reviews, journals and in other publications. For many years, he has served as the course planner for immigration programs conducted by the Pennsylvania Bar Institute, the continuing legal education arm of the Pennsylvania Bar Association. Mr. Steel's practice encompasses a full spectrum of business immigration clients including multinational corporations, technology companies, academic and research institutions, and individuals within the entertainment industry. Mr. Steel is a frequent lecturer and writer and has taught immigration law for many years. He has spoken at numerous national, regional and local immigration conferences sponsored by the AILA. He has for many years served on the Board of Directors of the Nationalities Service Center and the Green Circle Program of Philadelphia, and for three years served as Chair of those boards.



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[Shannon M. Underwood](#) is admitted to the Washington and Colorado Bar Associations, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington. She is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) and currently is an At-Large Member of the AILA National Young Lawyers Division Steering Committee, the Young Lawyer Representative of the AILA Washington Executive Committee, and the Chair of the AILA Washington Young Lawyers Division Committee. Ms. Underwood graduated from the University of Colorado School of Law at Boulder in 2001 where she interned for non-profit immigration agencies and attorneys. Ms. Underwood's interest in immigration law continued after graduation and has since been the sole focus of her legal career. After working as an Associate Attorney for a business immigration law firm in Denver, Colorado, Ms. Underwood relocated to the Pacific Northwest. She worked as an Associate Attorney for an immigration & nationality law firm in Olympia, Washington for two and a half years before joining the Law Offices of Carol L. Edward & Associates in January 2006.

[Paul Virtue](#) represents individual, business, and institutional clients in matters involving immigration law and policy. Paul has more than 20 years of experience in immigration law and related policy, regulatory, and legislative areas. Prior to joining Hogan & Hartson, Paul served as Executive Associate Commissioner and General Counsel of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). As general counsel, he was the agency's chief legal officer supervising a nationwide litigation staff of more than 600 attorneys and providing legal and policy advice to the INS commissioner and senior officials, the attorney general, the White House, and other federal agencies on a full range of issues under INS jurisdiction. During his tenure with the INS, Paul testified before U.S. Congress on numerous occasions as an expert on immigration law and policy. He participated in drafting the immigration provisions of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and provided legal advice regarding their implementation. Paul represented the agency as media spokesperson on numerous complex legal and policy issues. For his efforts in directing the agency's implementation of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, Paul received the U.S. Attorney General's Distinguished Service Award.