



Silas M. Ruiz-Steele

Counsel

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OVERVIEW:

Silas Ruiz-Steele chairs Barley Snyder's [Immigration](#) group. She has focused her practice exclusively on immigration and nationality law for more than twelve years, regularly counseling and assisting employers and their employees as well as private individuals in their immigration needs, including those skilled and highly trained in:

- The Sciences
- Engineering
- Education
- Health Care
- Business
- The Arts

As a corporate immigration law counselor, Silas assists employers in a variety of industries including agri-business, manufacturing, and gaming and hospitality, among others, in devising successful immigration programs to meet their needs. She represents employers in securing non-immigrant work visas for new hires and permanent residence for permanent personnel; multi-national companies in transferring their executives, managers or individuals with specialized knowledge; universities with foreign-born faculty, researchers, and graduates; and entrepreneurs forming start-up companies or re-locating to the U.S. in securing treaty-based visas.

A frequent speaker and author on business immigration topics, Silas regularly hosts seminars on visa-related topics, immigration compliance and strategic planning. She provides guidance and training to corporate clients of all sizes, human resources professionals, supervisors and managers on worksite enforcement issues, IRCA compliance, I-9 employment verification matters, Social Security mismatch issues, and developing and implementing system-wide immigration policies and protocols.

In addition to her employment-based immigration work, Silas provides assistance in naturalization and family-based immigration matters including both immigrant visas (green cards) and non-immigrant visas (K1 fianc(e)).

Silas is able to represent immigration clients in every jurisdiction of the U.S., handling matters before the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, U.S. Department of Labor and consulates worldwide.

Prior to joining the firm, Silas maintained her own immigration law practice, where she represented clients in matters involving Immigrant Visas through Adjustment of Status or Consular Processing, Temporary Work Visas such as those involving Treaty Traders and Investors, business visas such as B's, F's, H's, L's, O's, and P's, and naturalization. In addition, she provided guidance and training on employment verification procedures and immigration-related discrimination practices.

Having immigrated to the United States herself, Silas has personal experience with the complexities of the immigration process. With this experience in mind, she obtained her Juris Doctorate degree from [Georgetown University Law Center](#) in Washington, DC. She frequently presents at seminars and has served as an invited guest speaker for professional associations and organizations on topics such as I-9 compliance and employer sanctions, immigration risk management for employers, and nonimmigrant and immigrant visa options and strategies for businesses and individuals. Silas is a member of the [Florida State Bar Association](#), the [American Bar Association](#), the [American Immigration Lawyers Association](#), and the Society for Human Resources Management. Silas is fluent in Spanish and French.

EDUCATION:

- Georgetown University Law Center, J.D.
- Georgetown University, M.S. Foreign Service
- Manhattanville College, B.S.
- University of Oxford, Honors Program Participant

ADMISSIONS:

- Florida
- Pennsylvania

PRACTICE AREAS:

- Employment
- Immigration
- Employment Training and Professional Development

INDUSTRY GROUPS:

- Health Care

MEMBERSHIPS:

- Florida State Bar Association
- American Immigration Lawyers Association
- American Bar Association

PRESENTATIONS:

- "Immigration Compliance in the COVID-19 Era," 37th Annual Barley Snyder Employment Law Seminar (September 2020)
- "Preventative I-9 Audits Better To Be Safe Than Sorry," Barley Snyder Employment Law Seminar (May 2019)
- "Hot Topics in Employment, Labor & Immigration," Food & Ag Summit (February 2019)
- "Immigration Enforcement in the Trump Era," 35th Annual Employment Law Seminar (May 2018)
- "Immigration Under the New Administration," 2017 Barley Snyder Employment Seminar (April 2017)
- Employment Verification and the Form I-9, Barley Snyder Employment Law Seminar (May 2016)
- "Workplace Enforcement Avoiding I-9 Issues & Pitfalls," Barley Snyder Employment Law Seminar (April 2015)
- "Immigration Law: Where Things Stand and Where Things Might Be Going?" Barley Snyder Employment Seminar (May 2014)
- "Immigration Update," Barley Snyder Employment Seminar (May 2013)
- "Worksite Enforcement of Immigration Laws," Barley Snyder Employment Seminar (May 2012)

RELATED NEWS:

- Barley Snyder Attorneys Recognized in Lawyers of Color Law Firm Leaders 2022 Edition
February 24, 2023
- USCIS Takes Emergency Step for Employment Verification
August 26, 2020

- Dept. of Homeland Security Issues Final Rule Governing Cap-Subject H-1B Petitions
February 5, 2019
- New USCIS Policy Attempts Crack Down on F, J and M Visa Violators
September 24, 2018
- Accrual of Unlawful Presence to Change in August for Foreign Students
July 10, 2018
- Now We Know the Government Means Business: Prepare for an ICE Raid
January 12, 2018
- USCIS to Require Interviews for Employment-Based Adjustment Applicants
August 31, 2017
- Thirteen Barley Snyder Attorneys Named Select Lawyers
December 27, 2016
- USCIS Announces Final Rule Increasing Filing Fees on December 23, 2016
November 18, 2016
- Final STEM OPT Rule Released Effective May 10, 2016
March 11, 2016
- System Glitch Leads To Freeze On US Travel Visas
June 24, 2015
- 2016 H1B Cap Reached Alternatives to the H-1B Visa Category
April 13, 2015
- Employment Authorization Document for Certain H-4 Dependent Spouses
February 26, 2015
- H-1B Filing Season is Upon Us
January 20, 2015
- Federal Government Shutdown Impacts Certain Immigration Processes
October 14, 2013
- Senate Passes Immigration Reform Bill
July 30, 2013
- Senate Judiciary Committee Approves Gang of Eight's Comprehensive Immigration Reform Bill
May 31, 2013
- Beware of the Visa Bulletin Rollercoaster!
April 16, 2013
- Deferred Action Application Process Implemented by DHS
August 24, 2012
- USCIS Fraud Unit Site Visits What Employers Need to Know and How to Prepare
March 14, 2012