

Fazila Vaid

Principal, Schaumburg

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Schaumburg

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As the Co-Chair of the firm's Immigration practice, Fazila Vaid assists multinational corporations and business professionals with temporary and permanent residence matters, including a full range of nonimmigrant and immigrant visas and PERM applications. Clients appreciate Fazila's ability to cut through the complex legalese of immigration law by streamlining and explaining the issues or problem at hand and providing a workable solution to realizing the right result.

Fazila's practice focuses primarily on counseling companies engaged in trade and investment in the U.S. regarding the transfer of employees utilizing the E and L visa categories. She has broad experience assisting companies to file complex and challenging O-1 petitions on behalf of researchers and individuals with extraordinary ability in business, the arts and sciences. She assists companies to file H-1B petitions for foreign students and workers as well as TN applications for Canadian and Mexican nationals. Fazila has developed a niche practice assisting professionals in all industries to secure permanent residency in the EB-1 category as entrepreneurs, researchers, scholars, artists and in other hard-to-define professions. In addition, Fazila has extensive experience assisting companies to file traditional PERM applications and I-140 petitions in the EB-2 and EB-3 preference categories. Fazila provides strategic advice to employers on a wide range of immigration issues, including I-9 compliance, audits and negotiations with ICE, corporate restructuring and mergers and acquisitions, complex Requests for Evidence, Notices of Intent to Revoke/Deny, nonimmigrant visa waivers, and short and long-term immigration options for corporations and individuals. Fazila also addresses issues related to family-based immigration and citizenship and naturalization matters.



Education

IIT-Chicago-Kent College of Law, J.D.,
2000

University of Illinois, Chicago, B.A.
Criminal Justice and Spanish, 1996

Admissions

Illinois

U.S. District Court, Northern District of
Illinois

Supreme Court of Illinois

U.S. Court of Appeals: 7th Circuit

U.S. District Court, Southern District of
Illinois

Practice Areas

Immigration

Languages

Urdu

Urdu / Hindi

Gujarati

Spanish

Moreover, Fazila represents clients before the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Department of State, U.S. Department of Labor, and numerous U.S. consular posts worldwide. She has been practicing immigration law exclusively for nearly two decades, and represents clients from a wide variety of industries including energy, information technology, finance, engineering, food manufacturing, automotive parts manufacturing, construction equipment manufacturing, and high-speed railway and railway manufacturing.

Fazila has served as pro bono counsel to low-income individuals in asylum matters for the National Immigrant Justice Center. She lectures on immigration issues at professional and community organizations, conferences, universities and professional schools. In the past, she has served as pro bono counsel to low-income individuals in asylum matters for the National Immigrant Justice Center. Prior to joining Masuda Funai, Fazila worked in the immigration department of a mid-size law firm in downtown Chicago, where she represented corporations, universities, hospitals, medical institutions, foreign medical graduates and individual clients with temporary and permanent residence matters.

Experience

- Assisted a multinational manufacturing corporation in seeking B-1 visas at "high fraud" consular posts for multiple overseas employees seeking to attend seminars in the U.S.
- Counseled companies to seek alternative visas after the exhaustion of H-1B quota numbers.
- Provided a comprehensive analysis of a permanent residency process and implemented the process on behalf of companies.
- Assisted and counseled foreign medical graduates to seek permanent residency through the PERM and Physician National Interest Waiver process.
- Provided strategic immigration counseling and assisted companies in complying with USCIS and DOL regulations in connection with corporate restructuring, mergers and acquisitions.
- Assisted physicians seeking National Interest Waiver to submit adjustment of status applications and prepare and submit "preliminary" and "final" evidence to the USCIS.

Memberships

- American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), Chicago Chapter - Former Chair, Social Security Administration (SSA) Liaison Committee
- American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), Chicago Chapter - Former Co-Chair, Social Security Administration (SSA) Liaison Committee

- American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), Chicago Chapter - Former Member, Advocacy Committee and Citizenship Liaison Committee
 - American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), Chicago Chapter - Former Member, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Liaison Committee
 - American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), Chicago Chapter - Former Vice Chair, Illinois Secretary of State & Attorney General Liaison Committee
 - American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), National - Former Member, Verification and Documentation Liaison Committee
 - Muslim Bar Association - Advisory Board Member, Former Secretary and Board Member
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Distinctions

- *Leading Lawyers*, 2015-2024
- *Illinois Super Lawyers*, 2024