

PREFACE

These are difficult times. “If there is any fixed star in our constitutional constellation, it is that no official, high or petty, can prescribe what shall be orthodox in politics, nationalism, religion, or other matters of opinion or force citizens to confess by word or act their faith therein.” *W. Va. State Bd. of Educ. v. Barnette*, 319 U.S. 624, 642 (1943) (Jackson, J.).

This book is written for practitioners, government officials, judges, students, and everyone interested in a detailed knowledge of immigration law. It is designed to be a quick reference to federal and administrative cases, regulations and statutes, and INS/DHS, DOS, and DOL rulings on significant issues in the field. The book represents my research over more than 30 years on topics and issues that are relevant to practicing lawyers and students of immigration law.

Although we are fortunate in the immigration field to have a number of outstanding treatises and in-depth reference materials, as a practitioner, I was often frustrated by their lengthy explanations when all I sought were short citations to relevant cases and materials. This *Sourcebook* does not attempt to compete with or be a substitute for any treatise; it is designed to be used to pinpoint the significant cases and references on a particular topic, or as a basis for further research on a particular issue. The book was intentionally written as a one-volume resource tool to make the user’s research more convenient.

As a guide to practitioners and students, the *Sourcebook* contains the most recent cases and authorities in immigration law. The book is updated biannually and will continue to contain the latest authorities. Be sure to also check the *Kurzban’s Immigration Law Sourcebook* update page at www.aila.org/BookUpdates for selected updates, as well as any corrections or further information. This Seventeenth Edition has incorporated all available regulatory citations through May 2020, U.S. Supreme Court cases through July 2020, and other federal case citations through June 2020 (with selected major decisions through July 2020).

Using This Book

This book contains many finding aids, including an extensive keyword index; tables of cases, statutes, and other authorities; and detailed tables of contents at the beginning of each chapter. Depending on the topic you are researching, you may want to begin your research with any of these. Note, however, that *the detailed chapter tables of contents will be the best way to navigate* through the outline structure of the text. So even if you find your topic via the index, reference to the (thumb-indexed) table of contents can help you determine the context of where you are in the book (particularly in the complicated areas of Chapters 3 and 4), and it may help you find other relevant topics.

Adjudicator’s Field Manual (AFM)

For several years now, the USCIS’s Adjudicator’s Field Manual has been transitioning to its Policy Manual (PM). On May 21, 2020, the agency issued a technical update and removed the AFM from its website, referring users to the PM as the centralized online repository for USCIS policies. However, the PM sections that correspond to the AFM are not clear, despite a vague crosswalk, and are not necessarily all published online. Accordingly, we have left in references to the now-superseded AFM if a Policy Manual cite was not available. For the time being, AILA’s online research tool, *AILALink*, is preserving the AFM provisions as they existed immediately before the May 21, 2020 technical update.