



# Immigration in the U.S : Observing the Process



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## Introduction

Immigration law is a broad field with many subdivisions, so my internship was focused on asylum-based immigration. Modifications to immigration regulations under the Trump administration have affected various petitions by immigrants. The goal of this internship was to analyze individual immigration cases and establish explicit changes to their progression as a result of recent alterations in immigration regulations.

## Tasks Performed

- Conducting specific case analysis under the guidance of an Immigration Legal Assistant
- Reading and researching articles to contribute to the monthly law office newsletters and office website
- Minor office tasks
  - Attending to clients
  - Answering phones
  - Organizing/Delivering files



U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Image of Form I-589; Applied under Asylum and Withholding of Removal.  
Image Credit: UCIS



If detained upon entry, immigration process begins at Department of Justice.  
Image Credit: Dept. of Justice

## Internship site

I performed my practicum with a law firm in Silver Spring, MD. Law Offices of Fogam & Associates, LLC practices personal injury, family, and immigration law. I performed tasks and research on asylum-based immigration under the mentorship of legal assistant Melayna Brown.



## Insights

While reviewing ongoing immigration cases, I learned:

- Three forms of immigration relief based on fear of persecution/harm
  - Asylum
  - Withholding of Removal
  - Relief Under Convention Against Torture (CAT)
- Information/Paperwork required for asylum-withholding of removal application under U.S Citizenship and Immigration Services (UCIS)
  - FORM I-589
- Effects of Trump Administration regulations on Asylum
  - Executive Order: Border Security/ Prolonged Detention
  - Halting of Green Card Issues
- Proceedings of Merits Hearing at Immigration Court

## Future Work

As an intern at Law Offices of Fogam & Associates, I gained an in depth understanding of asylum procedures and created informed opinions on the current administration's regulations.

The recent COVID-19 pandemic has affected not only traveling but will affect immigrations proceedings for the unforeseen future. For future work, I plan to investigate the rationale behind the administrations most recent restrictions. Additionally, I want to study the effect on not just asylum filings but other immigration cases as well.