

Ian D. Wagreich

Chicago, IL

He/Him

📞 312-704-3868

✉ iwagreich@hinshawlaw.com



About Ian

A passionate advocate for a more just and humane immigration system, Ian handles business immigration matters for multinational corporations, hospitals, nonprofit arts institutions, universities, athletic organizations, and individual investors and entrepreneurs. He has developed a niche advising athletes, artists, entertainers, researchers, university faculty, and other highly skilled professionals.

With over 25 years of experience, Ian helps a wide variety of clients meet their business immigration needs. In addition to advising on nonimmigrant work visas, employment-based permanent residence, and labor certification, he counsels clients on investment-related immigration and employer sanctions. He oversees visa and compliance processes for skilled worker hires, facilitates international personnel transfers, and supports employees in securing US permanent residence and citizenship.

A leading voice on immigration law, Ian frequently speaks at universities and continuing legal education seminars, and provides commentary in print and television news media. You can follow Ian on X at [@IanDWagreich](https://twitter.com/IanDWagreich).

Ian's Affiliations

- American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA)
- American Immigration Council, Ambassador's Committee, Former Chair; Board of Trustees, Former Member
- Illinois State Bar Association
- International Medical Graduate Taskforce

Areas of Focus

Industries: Education; Healthcare; Hospitals, Rural Health Systems & Service Providers

Services: Employment Advice & Counseling; Employment Litigation; Immigration;
Labor & Employment

Experience

- Successfully litigated immigration-related matters, including mandamus actions against US Citizenship and Immigration Services and the US Department of State.
- Represented an intellectual property law firm in obtaining H-1B petition approval and permanent residence for employees, including associates and law clerks.
- Represented a large public university in obtaining permanent residence for researchers and scholars.
- Represented individuals in National Interest Waiver and Outstanding Researcher self-petitions.
- Obtained approvals of complex L-1A Managerial and L-1B Specialized Knowledge petitions for a large chain of retail stores.
- Counsel to a large health care organization in complex compliance matters.
- Assisted professional athletes in obtaining temporary work authorization and US permanent residence.
- Assisted investors in obtaining approval of EB-5 petitions, often involving complex source of funds tracing.
- Represented a world-renowned symphony in obtaining O-1 extraordinary ability visas for performers.
- Assisted small business owners in obtaining E-2 Treaty Investor Status to allow them to direct and manage their businesses in the United States.

Recognition

- *The Best Lawyers in America*®, Immigration Law, 2023 – 2026
- *National Law Journal*, Immigration Law Trailblazer, 2023
- *Law360*, 2023 Immigration Editorial Advisory Board
- *Lexology*, International “Lexology Index,” Corporate Immigration, 2016 – present; Thought Leaders – USA – Corporate Immigration, 2023 – present
- *Illinois Super Lawyers*, 2016 – 2022
- American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), President’s Commendations, 2011, 2014, 2015; Chicago Chapter, Joseph Minsky Beacon of Light Award, 2014; Sam Williamson Mentor Award, 2022
- Martindale-Hubbell, AV® Peer Review Rating

Credentials

Education

Loyola University Chicago School of Law, JD, 1995

University of Wisconsin – Madison, BS, 1990

Bar Admissions

Illinois

Interests

Did you know...

Ian spends much of his free time biking through different neighborhoods, visiting farmers' markets, exploring coffee shops, and photographing public art.

Thought Leadership

Presentations

- Co-Presenter, “Staffing and Workforce Management in a Time of Increasing Immigration Regulation and Enforcement,” Hinshaw’s 29th Annual Labor & Employment Seminar, Schaumburg, Illinois, October 9, 2025
- Co-Presenter, “Montreal Trade Mission: US Market Entry Overview,” Chamber of Commerce of Metropolitan Montreal, Miami, Florida, September 9, 2025
- Panelist, “The Client-Centered Firm: Service as a Business Growth Strategy,” American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) 2025 Fall Conference and Webcast, Boston, Massachusetts, September 12, 2025
- Conference Program Committee and Opening Remarks, American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) 2025 Fall Conference and Webcast, Boston, Massachusetts, September 11–12, 2025
- Co-Presenter, “Hospitality Industry Roundtable,” Illinois Restaurant Association, Chicago, Illinois, August 14, 2025
- Co-Presenter, “Hot Topics in U.S. Immigration Law,” Illinois State Bar Association Annual Meeting, Lincolnshire, Illinois, June 6, 2025
- Co-Presenter, “Know Your Rights,” DePaul University Immigration Workshop, Chicago, Illinois, May 14, 2025
- Panelist, “An Information Session About Recent Developments in US Immigration Law,” Office of International Student and Scholar Services, the Buffett Institute for Global Affairs, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, April 30, 2025
- Co-Presenter, “LIVE WEB - Immigration Law 2025: Updates and Essentials Under the New Administration,” Illinois State Bar Association, MCLE Webinar, April 11, 2025

- Co-Presenter, “Legal Navigation for Canadian Entrepreneurs in the US,” Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, March 25, 2025
- Co-Presenter, “The Border Trump Administration Changes on Immigration Policy,” Hinshaw University, CLE Webinar, March 20, 2025
- Faculty, “The Doctor Is In: Immigration Healthcare Updates,” American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) Hot Topics and Survival Skills Virtual Conference, March 3, 2025
- Co-Presenter, “Workplace Immigration & Employer Rights,” Illinois Restaurant Association, Webinar, February 18, 2025
- Faculty, “Preparing for FY 2026 H-1B Cap Season: Strategies and Tips from the Experts,” American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), CLE Web Seminar, January 28, 2025
- Panelist, “The Road Between Ordinary and Extraordinary is Paved with National Interest and Exceptional Ability,” American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) 2025 Midwinter Conference and Webcast, Puerto Vallarta, January 17, 2025
- Co-Presenter, “ISS Law Series: Pathways to Permanent Residence – Options for International Students and Scholars,” Wisconsin Involvement Network, Madison, Wisconsin, November 18, 2024
- Co-Presenter, “LIVE WEB - Immigrant and Non-Immigrant Visa Options: What You Need to Know When Representing Artists, Athletes, Entertainers, and Clients Working in STEM Fields,” Illinois State Bar Association, MCLE Webinar, November 15, 2024
- Co-Presenter, “The Intersection of Labor & Employment and Immigration,” Hinshaw’s 28th Annual Labor & Employment Seminar, Hoffman Estates, Illinois, November 13, 2024
- Co-Presenter, “Pathways to Permanent Residency,” Northwestern University Office of International Student and Scholar Services, Virtual and In-Person Workshop, Chicago, Illinois, October 29, 2024
- Co-Presenter, “Waiting in Vain? Advanced Visa Bulletin Strategies for Employment-Based Cases,” American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), CLE Webinar, June 27, 2024
- Co-Presenter, “What’s New with H-1B Visas?, 2024 AILA Annual Conference and Webcast on Immigration Law, Chicago, Illinois, June 15, 2024
- Panelist, “Tastes Like Home: Bridging the Immigration Gap through Food,” South By Southwest (SXSW) Conference 2024, Austin, Texas, March 10, 2024
- Co-Presenter, “Welcome and Remarks,” American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) Investors and Entrepreneurs Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana, February 19, 2024
- Moderator, “Out in Rugby: A Conversation with Nich McCarthy,” Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP, Chicago, Illinois, January 18, 2024
- Co-Presenter, “LIVE WEB - 2024 Immigration Law Update: Effectively Representing Immigration Clients and Analyzing Immigration Matters in a Volatile World,” Illinois State Bar Association, Webinar, January 16, 2024
- Co-Presenter, “The Garage” – Northwestern University’s Program for Entrepreneurs, Northwestern University, Chicago, Illinois, November 15, 2023
- “US Immigration Options for International Faculty, Students, and Postdoctoral Scholars,” University of Wisconsin – Madison Postdoctoral Association International Committee, Madison, Wisconsin, October 26, 2023

- Co-Presenter, “Immigration Year in Review,” Hinshaw’s 27th Annual Labor & Employment Seminar, Hoffman Estates, Illinois, October 19, 2023
- Panelist, “Representing the Exceptional and Extraordinary: EB-1 and NIW Cases,” American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) 2023 Annual Conference, Orlando, Florida, June 23, 2023
- Co-Presenter, “Immigration Law Update,” Hinshaw’s 26th Annual Labor & Employment Seminar, Hoffman Estates, Illinois, October 27, 2022
- Moderator, “To Immigrate or Not to Immigrate: That Is the Question,” American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) 75th Annual Conference, Javits Center, New York, New York, June 17, 2022
- Panelist, “Full STEM Ahead: Biden-Era Immigration Options Beyond the H-1B Cap,” Exigent Group, Webinar, April 19, 2022
- Co-Presenter, “To Green Card or Not to Green Card? Strategies and Considerations Regarding Applying for Permanent Residency,” American Immigration Lawyers Association Fall Conference and Webcast, Las Vegas, Nevada, October 12, 2021
- Faculty, “Reading the Tea Leaves: Recent Adjudicatory Trends and Challenges,” AILA Rome District Chapter of the EMEA 2021 Virtual Spring Conference, Virtual Event, April 28, 2021
- Panelist, “PERM Session,” AILA Chicago Spring Conference, Virtual Event, April 9, 2021
- “New Horizons: Advanced Strategies in Immigration Law in the Biden and COVID Era,” 2021 AILA NE Conference, Virtual Event, March 4, 2021
- Panelist, “Perspectives from Practice: Immigration Reform Under President Biden,” University of Chicago Webinar, February 24, 2020
- Co-Presenter, “Recent Updates in Employment-Related Immigration: Gazing into the Crystal Ball at the Year Ahead,” Hinshaw’s 25th Annual Labor & Employment Seminar, Virtual Event, October 28, 2020
- “Professional Visas: Overview of the H-1B and the Alternatives,” American Immigration Lawyers Association Virtual Online Conference, July 21, 2020
- “Immigration Options for International Students, Faculty, and Staff,” University of Wisconsin Madison, Madison, Wisconsin, May 29, 2020
- “Immigration Information Session on Permanent Residency not Requiring Labor Certification and Hot Topics in Immigration Law,” Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas, April 29, 2020
- “Dealing with the Worst of Bureaucracy – When Red Tape Hinders Good-Faith Efforts to Normalize Status,” American Immigration Lawyers Association Annual Conference, San Francisco, California, June 16, 2018
- “Effects of the Trump Administration’s Travel Ban,” *CBS Morning News*, January 30, 2017
- “Establishing the Employer-Employee Relationship in NIV Third-Party Placements,” American Immigration Lawyers Association Annual Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana, June 23, 2016

Publications

- “Visa Waiver Program and the Use of the B Visa for Athletes, Entertainers, and Artists,” *Immigration Options for Artists, Entertainers & Athletes*, Third Edition, 2020

- “Employment-Based Immigration: The First Three Preferences,” *Navigating the Fundamentals of Immigration Law*, 2022 – 2023 Ed., 2020 – 2021 Ed., 2019 – 2020 Ed., 2018 – 2019 Ed., 2017 – 2018 Ed.
- “RFEs & NOIDS: Templates vs. Special Unicorns,” *Immigration Practice Pointers: Tips for Handling Complex Cases*, 2019 – 2020 Ed.
- “Service Center Processing: U.S. Applications,” *Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education, Immigration Law*, 2019 Ed.

Blog Post

- How Employers Can Prepare for the Upcoming H-1B Lottery, Jan 6, 2021

Events

- William Schiller and Ian Wagreich Address Immigration Law Updates at Illinois Restaurant Association Hospitality Roundtable, Aug 14, 2025
- Bill Schiller and Ian Wagreich Present “Hot Topics in U.S. Immigration Law”, Jun 6, 2025
- Hinshaw Sponsors the 26th Annual National Immigrant Justice Center Human Rights Awards, Jun 3, 2025
- Ian Wagreich Joins DePaul’s Workshop for Immigrants and International Students, May 14, 2025
- Ian Wagreich Presents at the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) 2025 Midwinter Conference and Webcast, Jan 17, 2025

In The News

- Ian Wagreich Discusses the State of Flux Surrounding Student Visa Revocation Policy Under the Trump Administration, Jun 9, 2025
- Ian Wagreich Discusses Due Process Concerns Over International Student Visa Cancellations, May 2, 2025
- Ian Wagreich Offers Recommendations for Restaurant Owners and Employees Amid Increasing ICE Arrests, Apr 3, 2025
- Ian Wagreich Outlines 8 Best Practices for Business Owners Responding to HSI and ICE Investigations, Feb 11, 2025
- Hinshaw-Hosted “Out in Rugby” Conversation with Nick McCarthy of the Chicago Hounds Featured in the Windy City Times, Jan 29, 2024

Insights for Employers Alerts

- New USCIS Visa Bulletin Creates Opportunity to File for Permanent Residency Sooner than Expected, Sep 17, 2025
- Critical New Compliance Updates on Employment Authorization Terminations for Employers of Foreign Nationals, Jul 18, 2025
- How Employers Should Prepare for H-1B Employment Pre-Registration in March 2025, Feb 3, 2025

- A Guide to Immigration Eligibility for the Department of Homeland Security’s “Parole in Place” Application, Jul 31, 2024
- 5 New USCIS Clarifications for Individuals With H-1B Status, Jul 30, 2024

Press Releases

- Scott Seaman, Palma Yanni, and Ian Wagreich Recognized as 2026 *Lexology Index Thought Leaders: USA*, Oct 2, 2025
- 102 Hinshaw Lawyers Recognized in 2026 Editions of *The Best Lawyers in America*® and *Ones to Watch*™, Aug 21, 2025
- Hinshaw Named to the 2025 Pro Bono Recognition Roster by the Public Interest Law Initiative, Jun 17, 2025
- Scott Seaman and Ian Wagreich Recognized as 2025 Lexology Index Thought Leaders: USA, Oct 8, 2024
- 105 Hinshaw Lawyers Recognized in 2025 Editions of Best Lawyers in America and Ones to Watch, Aug 15, 2024

Webinars

- Bill Schiller and Ian Wagreich Present a Webinar on 2025 Immigration Law Updates, Apr 11, 2025
- Ian Wagreich Presents at the 2025 Hot Topics and Survival Skills Conference, Mar 3, 2025
- Navigating the Complexities of Workplace Immigration, Feb 18, 2025
- Ian Wagreich Co-Presents on Strategies for FY 2026 H-1B Cap Season, Jan 28, 2025
- Bill Schiller and Ian Wagreich are Featured Speakers in an Illinois State Bar Association Webinar on 2024 Immigration Law Updates, Jan 16, 2024

[View all of Ian's Insights](#)