

Research Assessment #2

Date: September 11, 2017

Subject: Different Fields of Immigration Law

MLA Citation:

“Immigration Law.” *Legal Resources*, Law Info Legal Resource Library, 2017, resources.lawinfo.com/immigration/.

Assessment:

For my second research assessment, I really wanted to focus on a particular kind of human law. Through my first weeks in ISM, I realized how specific and difficult of a niche *nonprofit law* would be to study, so I’ve decided to turn my focus instead on human rights or private law, something that still works primarily in the interest of people, but is not as hard to study as solely nonprofit. The article that I read was completely centered on the different types of Immigration Law and some of the individual aspects of each. The article outlined three main types, Family-Based Immigration, Employment-Based Immigration, and Humanitarian Immigration, all interesting and yet still quite different from each other.

Family-Based Immigration was fascinating to read about. I hadn’t realized previously that it was a big enough section of law to warrant its own differences, but I now know what a big part of immigration it is. I still wonder after reading the article, why is it so hard to allow in immigrants, especially from already established families? Is there such a problem with exceeding a rigid immigration cap set by the government to help someone’s whole family prosper? And on that note, why is the limit for number of immigrants allowed in so low for a country so large with such vast resources and infrastructure? I know that overpopulation is a problem these days, and I know with more and more people, climate change and resource abuse becomes a bigger factor, but to such a massive country as the United States, the proportional amount of immigrants let in doesn’t seem particularly fair or reasonable.

Another part of Immigration is Employment-Based Immigration and that is more focused on people getting into the country in order to work in specific jobs. What interested me so much about this was that I didn't realize how prevalent outside hiring was in companies today, so much so that most large corporations often have a permanent immigration lawyer to help accommodate the company's non-citizen employees. I still wonder, is this trend going to continue? I assume so, given growing interconnectedness worldwide, but also with current policy being written with a more "America First" mindset, how will the careers and job stability of immigration lawyers change as U.S. immigration shifts? Are immigration lawyers as a whole going to be in decline because of the more hostile relationship to foreigners these days?

Finally was the umbrella of Humanitarian Immigration, primarily regarding refugee status and asylum granting. Once again I wonder why there are such strict rules in place regarding refugees being allowed in and asylums being granted? From here, I need to do more research about the negative repercussions of high immigration rates because to me it seems that as such a powerful nation with a high carrying capacity should utilize their wealth for the good of others, especially those escaping extremely difficult situations.

Overall, I am really interested in immigration law and hope to pursue it further this year. I would truly enjoy studying a portion of law that benefits other people and although there are options out there such as divorce and family law, immigration seems like the best way to expand upon my knowledge of human rights and nonprofit all year, while still researching a field more accessible and possible in the DFW area. Additionally from here I would also like to learn more about how working as an immigration lawyer contrasts from working in other kinds of law and what the biggest challenges are to an immigration lawyer on a day to day basis. Still, I am very excited about the possibility of immigration being a more focused field for me and look forward to what I can learn about it in the future.