

Research Assessment #3

Date: September 18, 2017

Subject: Common Cases in Immigration Law

MLA Citation:

“Citizenship.” Immigration Lawyers | Present Your Case to Immigration Attorneys, LegalMatch, 1 Jan. 2014, www.legalmatch.com/immigration-lawyers.html.

Assessment:

For my third research assessment, I specifically wanted to learn more about the most common cases that immigration and naturalization lawyers see. Something I quickly learned through reading this article is how much of a niche there is for every possible different kind of lawyer. Whereas two weeks ago I thought that any attorney that helped people could fall under “human rights lawyer,” I now understand that there is so much more than just that, and lawyers can get as specific as being “green card lawyers” as opposed to “temporary visa lawyers”. In addition to that, I have also learned that there are so many different kinds of cases for immigration lawyers to take on. Between my research assessment from last week that was more focused on broad themes in immigration law and this week’s article which hones in on specific cases, I now have an idea of just how vast this field is and how many individual aspects of immigration I will have to separately study.

The first part of this article talked about American Citizenship. Although it’s something that doesn’t personally affect me, because I was born a U.S. citizen, I still have so many questions about the intricacies of it. How does global citizenship differ? Is it just as hard to become a citizen of another country as it is to become one in the U.S.? Based on what I’ve gotten from the media, it seems especially hard to become an American citizen, but maybe that’s just my understanding because of the narrative I’ve been fed. Also, you have to be in America and demonstrate “good moral character” in order to qualify for citizenship? What specifically does this mean? It seems rather arbitrary and although I know that there are specifics outlined somewhere deeper in the

constitution that no doubt I will research later, I still think that's a rather vague blanket statement for such a monumental process.

Deportation is another facet of immigration law that wasn't covered in the broader article I read last week. Again, I feel like deportation is one of the most heavily covered topics in the mainstream news, but often it's just the overly-dramatic stories that we hear. What constitutes a "serious concern" for immigrants facing a possible deportation? Are the minor offenses we hear about that get people deported actually a true reality? I would still like to understand more in depth what deportation more fully entails.

The last part of the article described temporary and permanent visas. I was interested to learn that temporary visas were so common. I didn't realize that they were given out so much more frequently for business or education related reasons. How often do people with temporary visas seek out permanent residence? Is it so common that a temporary visa is almost expected as a stepping stone to full citizenship or is it primarily for people who know that permanent citizenship isn't an end-goal? When do people with green cards have to get a permanent citizenship, if ever? And from there, what exactly is the green card lottery? Is it honestly random, or does it favor well-educated white people as I understand immigration law has begun to shift under the more recent presidential administration?

Overall, I am very interested in pursuing immigration law as my main field of study this year. I feel like there are so many topics that range so widely from something simpler like working visas, to incredibly complicated deportation cases. Not only does it directly impact the lives of people, but it's also something very high in demand in this day and age because of the recent policy changes toward immigrants seeking citizenship or at least residency status. Additionally because America is truly a nation of immigrants, and as time goes on and the Baby Boomers eventually die out, there will be a much smaller work force, which very possibly will be replaced with immigrants. I feel like it's such a relevant field and so captivating too.