

Launching an Immigration Law Career at the Courthouse

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The background of the slide features a composite image. At the top, there is a solid red horizontal bar. Below it, the Earth is shown from space, with blue oceans, green landmasses, and white clouds. In the foreground, several hands of different skin tones are reaching upwards, their fingers spread, as if they are supporting or reaching towards the Earth. The background is a dark blue space filled with numerous small white stars.

OVERVIEW

Immigration Law

Gov't Organizations

Clerkship Opportunities

The Clerkship Experience

Building your resume

Post-graduate and summer opportunities

Resources – handout

Conclusion

Constitutional Powers

- The Commerce Clause (Art. I Section 8 Clause 3) authorizes Congress “to regulate commerce with foreign nations and among the several states.”
- The Naturalization Clause (Art. I Section 8 Clause 4) empowers Congress to “establish a uniform rule of Naturalization.”
- The Migration and Importation Clause (Art. I Section 8 Clause 1) limits “the migration or importation of such persons as any States, now existing, shall think proper to admit.”
- The War Power (Art. I Section 8 Clause 11) permits the federal government to stop the entry of aliens and to expel them from the U.S.

Federal Power over Immigration



The Legislative Branch

- Congress has broad powers, both enumerated and implied, to regulate immigration.

The Executive Branch

- President can issue executive order regarding immigration.
- Executive officers may act on immigration matters if such authority is expressly conferred upon them by Congress.

Federal Power over Immigration

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- **Family-Based**
 - **Employment-Based**
 - **Removal**
 - **Asylum**
 - **Visas**

Immigration Law



IMMIGRATION RELATED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

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- **Office of the Director**
 - **Office of the General Counsel**
 - **Office of the Chief Immigration Judge**
 - **Board of Immigration Appeals**
 - **Office of the Chief Administrative Hearing Officer**
 - **Immigration Courts**

Executive Office of Immigration Review



Department of Homeland Security

- USCIS
- ICE
- Trial Attorney's in
Immigration Court

U.S. Consulates

Other Immigration related agencies



DOJ's Executive Office of Immigration Review

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S HONOR PROGRAM

- **Eligibility**
- **Selection Criteria**
- **How to Apply – timing - competition**
- **Competition**

Where are the immigration clerkships?



Eligibility

1. Graduating law students
2. Recent law school graduates who entered judicial clerkships
3. Graduate law programs
4. Qualifying legal fellowships within nine months of law school graduation

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S HONOR PROGRAM

Selection Criteria - DOJ considers the “whole candidate”

- demonstrated commitment to government service
- academic achievement
- leadership
- law review or moot court experience
- legal aid and clinical experience
- past employment
- extracurricular activities

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S HONOR PROGRAM



How to Apply

- On-line application
- For employment beginning Fall 2013 – application opens on July 31, 2012 and closes on September 4, 2012
- Interview candidates are selected late September 2012
- Offers Extended late November 2012 thru February 2013

Competition

- Number of clerkships - approx. 33 for all of U.S.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S HONOR PROGRAM

- Personal experience
- Work
- Hours
- Judges
- Skills



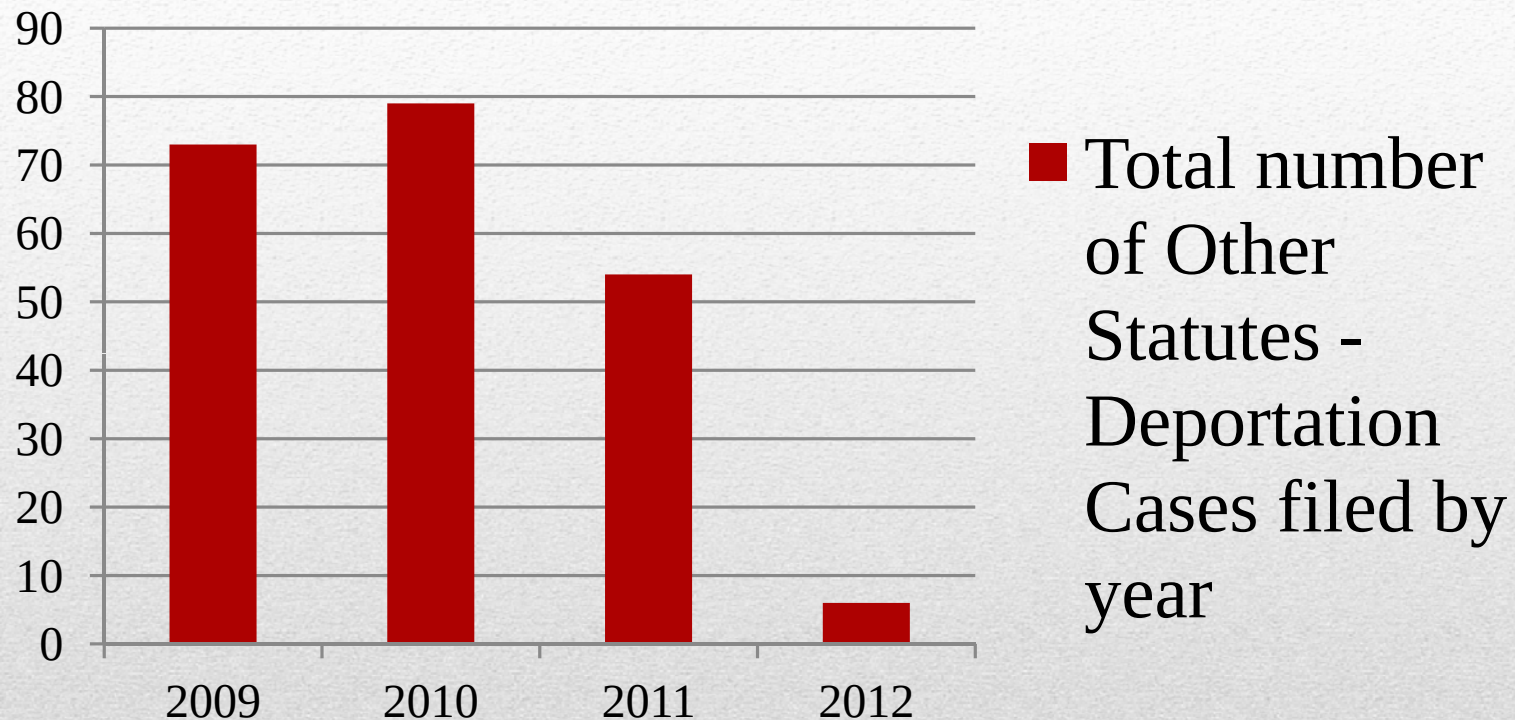
Description of Immigration Clerkship



FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT CLERKSHIPS

Other immigration-related options

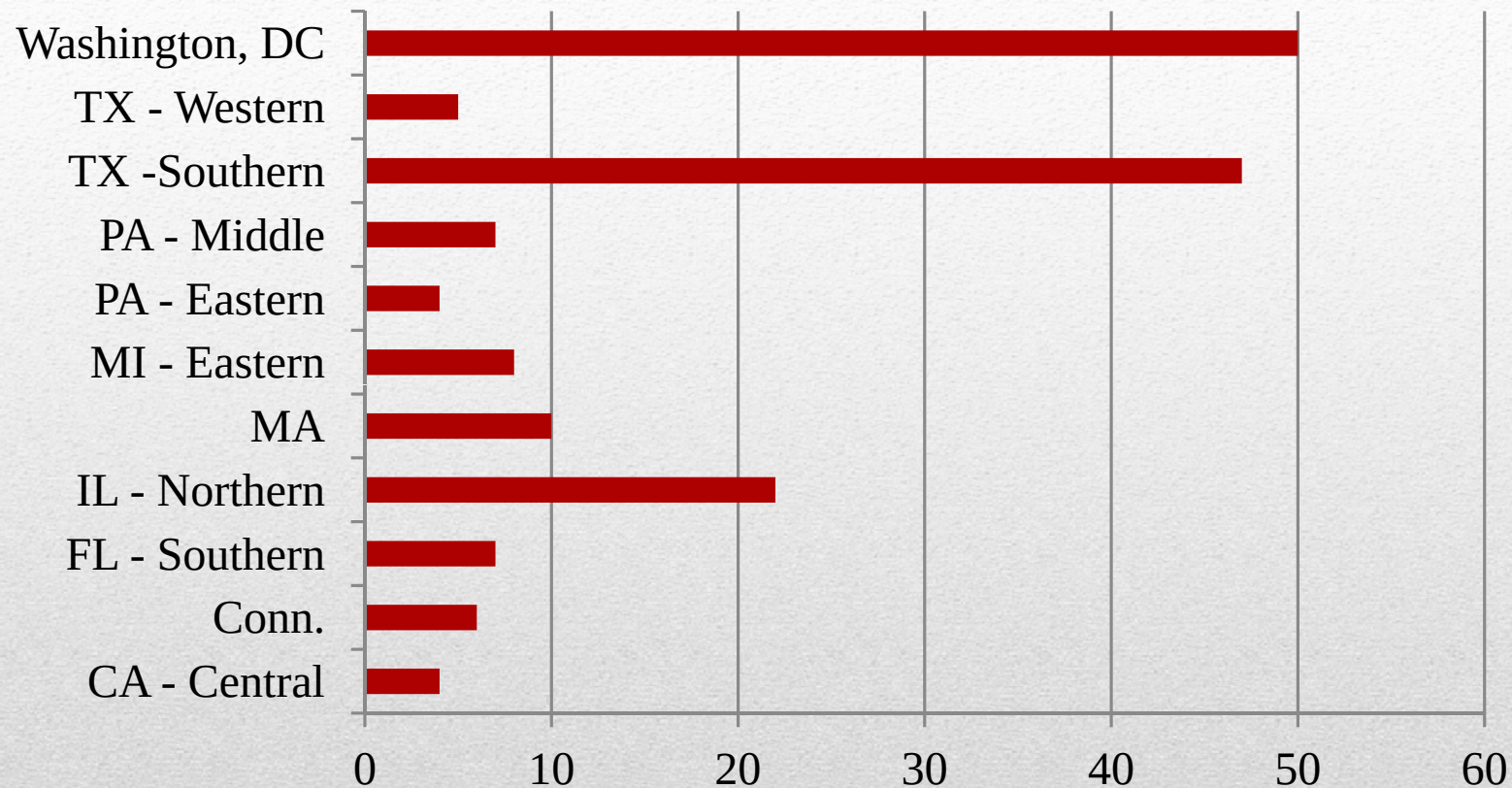
District Court Cases



Tailored Research

Lexis' Courtlink

of Cases filed in each court 2009-2012



Distribution of Deportation Cases



Courts of Appeal – some staff attorneys specialize in immigration appeals, e.g., 2d circuit – www.ca2.uscourts.gov/jobs.htm

Citizen and Immigration Services

- Appeals officers
- Adjudication officer
- Immigration services officer

Immigration and Customs Enforcement

- Chief information officer
- General Attorney

Dep't of Homeland Security

- Immigration Law Analyst

Department of Labor

- Immigration Program Analyst

Other government jobs



PREPARING STUDENTS

Tips for building their resume

Related Fields

- Employment law
- Criminal law
- Housing
- Domestic violence
- Rights of sexual minorities
- Human rights
- Education

Related Issues

- citizenship/residency
- National security
- asylum and refugees
- trafficking
- family reunification
- unaccompanied children

Thinking Broadly

Externships/internship

- Government
- national/local organizations
- legal services / legal aid
- faith-based organizations
- non-profits
- private public interest firms
- international work (NGOs)

Types of Practice

- Litigation
- Advocacy
- Policy making
- Education
- Services

Practice Settings

Who are the students interested in immigration law?

Often have prior work experience in education, social work, or advocacy

- Myths
- Skills required
- Courses
- Clinics
- Resume tips

Building the Resume for an Immigration Clerkship

**What else can
students do to
get experience?**

- Participate in KNOW YOUR RIGHTS PROGRAMs at law schools and community centers
- NLG – observe immigration courts
- Visit people in detention centers
- Volunteer to staff hotlines for immigrants

Preparing Students for a Clerkship

**What else can
students do to
get experience?**

- DHS Refugee Protection Officer
- Governor's Office of Civil Rights
- Asylum Officer
- Tahirih Justice Center
- Start a clinic
- Invite immigration lawyers to speak at law school

Preparing Students for a Clerkship

LEGAL ASSOCIATIONS

- American Association of Justice
- American Bar Association
- American Immigration Lawyers Association
- American Society of International Law
- Hispanic National Bar Association
- National Lawyers Guild

Contacts, Training, and More...



AFTER THE CLERKSHIP

Where to go for more experience?

Exploring immigration related issues and practice areas...(handout)

Fellowships

- Equal Justice Works
- Immigrant Justice Project Fellowship – SPLC- AL
- Soros Justice Advocacy Fellowships
- Wellstone Fellowship – healthcare - MN
- Workers' Rights Fellowship - NY

Staff attorneys

- 9th Cir. - lots of cases
 - Archdiocese of NY
 - Michigan Migrant Legal Assistance Project
 - Indiana Legal Services – Migrant Farmworker Project
 - Political Asylum Project of Austin
 - **Solo Practice**
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IMMIGRATION LAW CAREER CHALLENGES

The “real deal” on what it is like to practice
immigration law

**How does an
immigration court
clerkship prepare
you for a career in
immigration law?**

SKILLS

CONTACTS

EXPERTISE

- Immigration law career is intellectually and personally challenging – laws change quickly, high profile cases
- Professionally satisfying: immediately address needs of one person at a time
- Hot Topics in Immigration Law

Launching an Immigration Law Career

- Go to www.lexis.com/lawschool and sign in with your ID and Password. Select the RED Lexis.com button on the right after you log in.
- In the Quick Tools block to the right of the screen type “courtlink” and click the Find a Source block.
- Select the link for Litigant, Attorney, & Judge Strategic Profiles.
- Select the tab at the top of the screen for “Nature of Suit”
- Use the dropdown boxes to select your criteria and see the available categories.

Using Courtlink for Tailoring your Clerkship Search

This slide added after Conference presentation and derived entirely from Lexis.