

TRAILBLAZERS

IMMIGRATION LAW 2023

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FRAGOMEN, DEL REY, BERNSEN & LOEWY, LLP



What was the genesis of the idea/path that has made you a trailblazer?

Fragomen's lawyers practice immigration at the highest levels around the world, moving bright minds and industrious spirits to places where they're needed most. As we designed a specialty team to help the firm tackle less common problems, we saw our clients' challenges changing. Increasingly, these challenges shifted from traditional questions of immigration program management to intersecting but quite distinct areas – humanitarian, administrative, criminal, employment, constitutional law and beyond. In response, we did for this team what our firm naturally does for its clients: we built diversity of thought.

What sort of change has resulted from the concept?

Fragomen hired a very diversified mix of experts. Some were former senior government officials, with deep knowledge of the agencies, Congress and the broad range of immigration law. Others, though, had not a moment of immigration experience, but brought razor-sharp expertise in intersecting areas. Still others were not lawyers at all: investigators, a former asylum officer, a former official of a foreign government, critical-thinking analysts and auditors. We turned these people loose on problems that start—but don't end—with immigration.

What bearing will this have on the future?

These changes opened new solutions for multi-dimensional puzzles. When clients need to reach safety from a war zone; plan for a sudden new compliance landscape; defend against an overaggressive regulator; or take new directions in federal court, we can help. The future of immigration lies at these intersections. It means navigating seismic electoral shifts, public health crises, economic disruptions, global conflicts, climate change, demographic shifts and new ways of moving and working. We've taken a novel approach to get ready.