



Kelli J. Meilink

PARTNER

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OVERVIEW

Kelli focuses her practice on business immigration law, representing a wide range of employers in obtaining and maintaining employment authorization for foreign national employees on a temporary and permanent basis.

She represents employers across various industries, including technology, engineering, manufacturing, healthcare and education. She regularly works with employers to develop long-term immigration planning for foreign national employees, including

"Had it not been for the immigration expertise of Husch Blackwell LLP, our top candidate might not have been secured. Kelli Meilink and Christine Fabin are experienced in the intricate details of the visa application process and have an extensive network to ensure positive results. They respond timely to inquiries and created a thorough visa application. They studied our institution, gaining an in-depth knowledge of our mission; then successfully presented our foreign candidate as an unequalled applicant for the position."

— Beth Bro-Roof, Board President,
Museum of Danish America

Industries

Manufacturing
Technology
Transportation

Services

Business Immigration and Global Mobility
Healthcare Labor & Employment and Immigration
Human Trafficking Compliance
Labor & Employment
Nonprofit Organizations & Religious Institutions
Startups

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counseling clients through the H-1B and labor certification application processes, and assisting employers in developing policies for employer-sponsored work authorization. Kelli advises employers on workplace compliance matters, including proper completion and maintenance of Form I-9 and e-verify participation. She has experience assisting with internal I-9 audits and responding to governmental audits. She represents clients before U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, the U.S. Department of Labor, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Immigration Customs and Enforcement, and other federal agencies.

Kelli's experience includes:

- Completed H-1B petitions for foreign national employees for a wide variety of companies, colleges and universities, health care organizations and other non-profit organizations, and advised clients on issues related to maintaining H-1B status, including travel and visa issuance.
- Successfully prepared multiple L-1 intracompany transferee petitions for multinational manufacturing company that was shifting manufacturing operations to the United States.
- Counsel for large, multi-state health care organization in obtaining and maintaining TN status for Registered Nurses and H-1Bs for physicians.

Kelli also assists foreign national investors and entrepreneurs in their long-term immigration planning. She counsels founders of technology start-ups on maintaining work authorized status and obtaining permanent residence. She advises investors on investor immigration options, including the E-2 treaty investor visa and EB-5 immigrant investor program.

A significant portion of Kelli's practice also focuses on the special rules for health care organizations and colleges and universities. Kelli regularly advises health care organizations on work authorization for foreign national physicians, nurses and other health care workers. For colleges and universities, Kelli counsels on issues related F-1 students and the Student Exchange and Visitor Program (SEVP) and on a variety of matters related to foreign national employees, including H-1B status and permanent residence for professors and researchers.

Experience

- Completed H-1B petitions for foreign national employees for a wide variety of companies, colleges and universities, health care organizations and other non-profit organizations, and advised clients on issues related to maintaining H-1B status, including travel and visa issuance.
- Successfully prepared multiple L-1 intracompany transferee petitions for multinational manufacturing company that was shifting manufacturing operations to the United States.

Experience

- Counsel for large, multi-state health care organization in obtaining and maintaining TN status for Registered Nurses and H-1Bs for physicians and advised in the application process for the Conrad 30 J-1 waiver program for physicians.
- Assisted client in planning and drafting e-verify and I-9 policies for human resource personnel and managers at multi-state company with a large number of hiring sites and assisted in evaluating electronic I-9 systems for purchase.
- Successfully completed labor certification applications for engineers working at various subsidiaries of large manufacturing company.
- Successfully prepared multinational manager permanent residence case for executive of large manufacturing company following approved L-1 intracompany transferee status.
- Advised private university on developing policies for admission and tuition for foreign national students who have been granted Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).
- Advised landscaping company in responding to Department of Labor audit of H-2B workers.
- Lead counsel for pro bono immigration cases, including asylum and special immigrant juvenile status.
- Assisted the Missouri Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church with a complex immigration process to bring a pastor from Cuba to Missouri to launch a new Spanish-speaking ministry. The year-long process included bringing the pastor and family to Guyana to process visas.

Recognition

- *The Legal 500 United States*
 - Labor and employment: Immigration, Recommended attorney, 2023 and 2024
- *Missouri Lawyers Media*, Women's Justice Awards, Pro Bono Award, 2023
- Missouri Bar Pro Bono Wall of Fame, 2018-2019
- Ingram's Magazine, 40 Under Forty, 2022

Education

- J.D., Seton Hall University School of Law
 - *cum laude*
 - *Seton Hall Law Review*, Executive Editor
- B.A., University of Kansas
 - with distinction
 - Phi Beta Kappa Honors Society
 - University Honors Program

Admissions

- Missouri
- New Jersey
- New York



The Legal 500 United States.