



11th Annual Northern Border Conference

Friday, September 20, 2019 | Hyatt Regency, Buffalo, NY



Welcome to the eleventh annual Northern Border U.S./Canada Immigration Law Conference, sponsored by the Upstate New York chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association. This conference brings together leading immigration law practitioners from both the United States and Canada to discuss issues touching on immigration to both countries, with a focus on Northeastern U.S./Canada border posts. Continuing legal education (CLE) credit is offered, including credits for ethics and practice management. We look forward to seeing you at the conference.

Sergio R. Karas, Karas Immigration Law Professional Corporation (Toronto), conference co-chair
Lucrecia Z. Knapp, Chair of AILA's Upstate NY Chapter, Harter Secrest & Emery LLP (Rochester), conference co-chair

This conference is cosponsored by:
The Ontario Bar Association
The ABA Section of International Law



In cooperation with:
Harter Secrest & Emery LLP



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For CPD credit, this program contains two (2) hours of professionalism content and five (5) hours of substantive content. This program contains five (5) hours of CLE credit, including an ethics credit. NYS CLE Tuition Assistance: Any attorney who has a financial hardship may apply for tuition assistance for this CLE by completing a [Tuition Assistance Request Form](#).

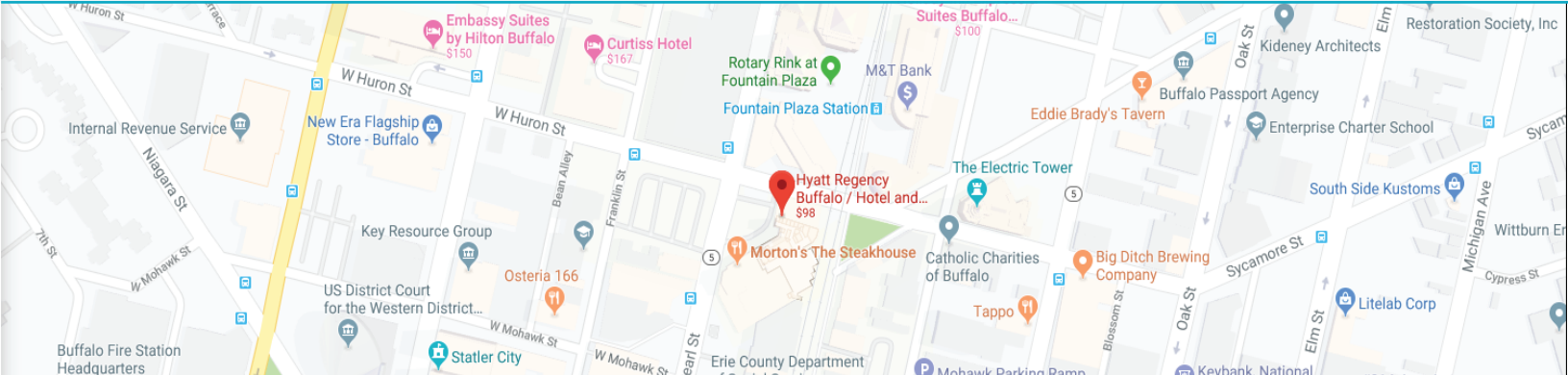


REGISTRATION IS OFFICIALLY OPEN FOR THE CONFERENCE. PLEASE REGISTER [HERE](#).
We have reserved a block of rooms at the Hyatt at a preferential rate. The room block can be accessed [here](#).

Conference Program

8:00 a.m. – 8:55 a.m.	Full breakfast, Check-in, Networking
8:55 a.m.	Welcome and Introduction Conference Co-chairs: Sergio R. Karas, Karas Immigration Law Professional Corporation (Toronto) Lucrecia Z. Knapp, Upstate NY Chapter of AILA Chair, Harter Secrest & Emery LLP (Rochester)
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	CBP Northern Border Update Discussion Leader: Rosanna Berardi, Berardi Immigration Law (Buffalo) Panel Speakers: Danielle Rizzo, Harris Beach PLLC (Buffalo); Alexis Axelrad, Barst Mukamal & Kleiner LLP (New York); CBP officers*
10:10 a.m. – 11:10 a.m.	CBSA Update: Ports of Entry Procedures, and the Impact of New Cannabis and Drinking and Driving Legislation Discussion Leader: Sergio R. Karas, Karas Immigration Law Professional Corporation (Toronto) Panel Speakers: David Garson, Garson LLP (Toronto); Chantal Desloges, Desloges Law Group (Toronto)
11:10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Coffee Break
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Hot Topics on Visas, Work Permits, Residence, and Old and New Issues on Both Sides of the Border Discussion Leader: Daniel Joyce, Fiegel, Carr & Joyce (Buffalo) Panel Speakers: Naseem Malik, Stringer LLP (Toronto); Nan Berezowski, Berezowski Business Immigration Law (Toronto); David Wilks, Miller Mayer LLP (Ithaca)
12:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Lunch 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Keynote Speaker Sonya M. Tsiros*, Consular Section Chief, U.S. Consulate General (Toronto) Discussion Leader: Julie Kruger, Kruger Immigration Law (Buffalo) 1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Presentation of Peter J. Murrett III Pro Bono Award
2:10 p.m. – 3:10 p.m.	Ethics Roundtable: Dealing with Difficult Cases and Clients Discussion Leader: Craig Dobson, Dobson Law LLC (New York) Panelists: Randolph Hahn, Garson LLP (Toronto); Barbara Brenner, Whiteman Osterman & Hanna LLP (Albany)
3:20 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Practice and Risk Management and Professionalism: Tips from the Pros on how to Improve your Practice and Reduce Stress Panelists: Katie James, Claims Counsel, Law Pro (Toronto); Charity Anastasio, Practice Management Advisor, AILA National (Washington, D.C.)

* Invited





Sergio R. Karas, B.A., J.D. is a Canadian Barrister and Solicitor and a Certified Specialist in Canadian Citizenship and Immigration Law by the Law Society of Ontario. Mr. Karas represents individuals and multinational corporations to achieve their immigration objectives and implement successful relocation strategies.

Mr. Karas is an honors graduate in Political Science from York University and obtained his Law degree from Osgoode Hall Law School. He speaks fluent English, French and Spanish and has a working knowledge of Italian, Portuguese and German. He is Past Chair of the Ontario Bar Association (OBA) Citizenship and Immigration Section, Past Chair of the International Bar Association (IBA) Immigration and Nationality Committee, and Past Chair of the American Bar Association (ABA) Canada Committee, Section of International Law. He has been invited on numerous occasions to address other lawyers and human resources managers at major international professional gatherings. He is listed in *Who is Who in Corporate Immigration Law* and *Best Lawyers* as a leading immigration legal practitioner. He is also the recipient of Martindale Hubbell *Client Champion Platinum Award* for several consecutive years in a row.

Mr. Karas contributes to the press providing current information about Canada's immigration law and policies. His articles are published in national and international journals. He is a regular guest on local, national and international radio and television programs. Mr. Karas is the Editor of the *Global Business Immigration Handbook* published by Thomson Reuters and contributing writer on immigration issues to *Canadian HR Reporter* and *Canadian Employment Law Today*.

Mr. Karas has been instrumental in effecting changes to Canadian immigration visa policies through his involvement in US-Canada relations and border security issues. He also served as a member of the Board of Directors of JIAS (Jewish Immigrant Aid Services) in Toronto for ten years.

Mr. Karas' law firm, Karas Immigration Law Professional Corporation, headquartered in Toronto, Canada, is dedicated to the successful settlement of qualified immigrants including professionals, self-employed, entrepreneurs, and investors, and to assisting corporations to implement successful migration strategies for managerial, executive and technical personnel.

Harter Secrest & Emery LLP

ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS

Lucrecia represents companies, universities, medical institutions, and individuals on all aspects of employment-based, business, and family-based immigration and I-9 compliance. She assists students, medical professionals, executives, athletes, artists, entrepreneurs, persons of extraordinary ability, and immigrant investors in a wide-range of matters. She is highly regarded for her responsiveness and for her creativity in discovering solutions that put clients in a position to win.

Before joining HSE, Lucrecia was an attorney with Klasko Immigration Law Partners, a Philadelphia-based immigration law boutique.

Lucrecia has experience with:

- Permanent residence petitions for aliens of extraordinary ability, outstanding researchers, national interest waivers, multinational managers, religious workers, petitions based on standard processing labor certifications, as well as family-based permanent residence applications.
- Creative solutions to obtain temporary work authorizations, including E and J-1 Visas, L-1, TN, R-1, O-1 petitions for extraordinary ability workers, and H-1B petitions for aliens in specialty occupations, allowing maximum flexibility for clients.
- Navigating multifaceted immigration-related regulations when responding to government requests and preparing for site visits.
- The complex and ever-changing area of I-9 employment verification, ensuring compliance with federal immigration laws, and best practices to avoid government penalties.

Professional and Civic Affiliations

- Chair, American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) Upstate New York Chapter
- American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA)
- Member and Co-Chair, NYSBA Immigration Conference Planning Committee
- Member, Board of Directors, Lollypop Farm, Humane Society of Greater Rochester

Honors and Awards

- Recipient, "Up and Coming Attorneys" Award, *The Daily Record*, 2019
- Empire State Counsel, 2016

Publications

- "2018 Employment-Based Immigration Update," Proceedings of the 18th Annual Saratoga Institute on Equine, Racing and Gaming Law, August 7, 2018
- "The Basics of Extraordinary Ability and Outstanding Researcher I-140 Immigrant Petitions," The Proceedings of the New York State Bar Association Conference-U.S. Immigration Law - Where are We Now? May 15, 2017



LUCRECIA Z. KNAPP

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Admissions

New York

Education

Brooklyn Law School, J.D.
Queens College, B.A.

- "Another Voice: Rule change would help entrepreneurs obtain visas," *Buffalo News*, October 25, 2016
- "Employment Based Immigration Fundamentals: Common Temporary Options for Canadians," The Proceedings of the 8th Annual Northern Border Immigration Fall CLE Conference, October 2016
- "The Basics of L and TN Border Adjudications for Canadians," The Proceedings of the 7th Annual Northern Border Immigration Fall CLE Conference, September 2015

News

- Quoted, "Impact from ICE raids last summer still felt at Saratoga Race Course," *The Daily Gazette*, August 13, 2018
- Quoted, "Saratoga Law Conference: New Immigration Policy Creating A 'Disaster' For Trainers," *Paulick Report*, August 8, 2018

Presentations

- Presenter, "Practice Before USCIS - Part 2 - The Crisis in Business Immigration Generally," New York State Bar Association Conference-U.S. Immigration Law, May 17, 2019
- Presenter, "Rochester Hispanic Business Association Lunch Series (discussion of business immigration options)," Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce, February 19, 2019
- Presenter, "Immigration Basics and the Travel Ban," Rochester Institute of Technology Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, November 6, 2018
- Panelist, "Get Real Trade Insights (discussion of business immigration options)," Greater Rochester Enterprise, September 25, 2018
- Panelist, "Immigration and the Horse Racing Industry," 18th Annual Saratoga Institute on Equine, Racing and Gaming Law, August 7, 2018
- Co-Presenter, "Form I-9 Compliance: Best Practices in an Evolving Landscape," Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce, July 20, 2018
- Presenter, "Rapid Fire: 55 Key Practice Pointers for Running Your Immigration and I-9 Program," National Human Resources Association, May 8, 2018
- Presenter, "Employment-Based Permanent Residence: Fundamentals," New York State Bar Association Conference-U.S. Immigration Law - Where are We Now? New York, NY, May 15, 2017
- Presenter, "I-9 Compliance: The Ever Changing I-9 Form," Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce, December 2, 2016
- Discussion Leader, "Employment-Based Fundamentals in U.S. and Canadian Immigration: The Alphabet Soup," 8th Annual Northern Border Immigration Fall Conference, American Immigration Lawyers Association, October 7, 2016
- Presenter, "Employment-Based Immigration Fundamentals," AILA Upstate New York Chapter's 7th Annual Northern Border Immigration Fall CLE Conference, September 25, 2015
- Presenter, "Frequently Encountered Taxation Issues to Consider," the American Immigration Lawyers Association Audio Seminar, May 21, 2015



Contact

www.linkedin.com/in/sonya-tsiros-7b485128 (LinkedIn)

Top Skills

Foreign Policy
Consular Processing
Diplomacy

Languages

English (Native or Bilingual)
Spanish (Full Professional)

Sonya Tsiros

Consular Section Chief, U.S. Consulate General Toronto
Toronto, Canada Area

Experience

U.S. Consulate General Toronto
Consular Section Chief
July 2018 - Present
Toronto, Canada Area

U.S. Department of State
Division Director
July 2016 - July 2018 (2 years 1 month)

US Army War College
Resident Student
July 2015 - July 2016 (1 year 1 month)
Carlisle, PA

U.S. Consulate General Merida
Consul General
August 2012 - June 2015 (2 years 11 months)

US Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs
Division Chief, Office of Fraud Prevention Programs
August 2010 - July 2012 (2 years)

US Department of State
US Civilian Team Lead
August 2009 - August 2010 (1 year 1 month)
Provincial Reconstruction Team, Qal-e-Now, Afghanistan

U.S. Embassy Bucharest
Deputy Consul General
June 2006 - June 2009 (3 years 1 month)

U.S. Embassy Asuncion
Consular Section Chief
August 2002 - July 2005 (3 years)
Asuncion, Paraguay

U.S. Department of State
Watch Officer
August 2001 - September 2002 (1 year 2 months)

US Embassy London
Vice Consul
August 1999 - July 2001 (2 years)

US Embassy Guatemala City
Vice Consul
July 1997 - July 1999 (2 years 1 month)

Dechert LLP
Associate Attorney
July 1995 - January 1997 (1 year 7 months)

Bingham McCutchen LLP
Associate Attorney
September 1992 - March 1995 (2 years 7 months)

Education

Columbia University in the City of New York
Juris Doctor (J.D.) · (1989 - 1992)

Columbia University in the City of New York
Bachelor's Degree · (1983 - 1987)

Julie Kruger, Esq. is a Buffalo, New York native, and has been an attorney for over 8 years. Julie devotes her practice to family and business based immigration cases, United States citizenship cases, deportation and removal cases, appeals before the Board of Immigration Appeals and other Courts, immigrant and non-immigrant waivers of inadmissibility, and other complex immigration matters. Julie received a Bachelor of Arts – All College Honors, Cum Laude from Canisius College in 1999, and a Juris Doctor, Cum Laude degree in 2009 from the State University of New York at Buffalo Law School. Julie spent a semester abroad at the University of Oviedo in Oviedo, Spain, and is proficient in Spanish. Ms. Kruger has extensive experience in all aspects of immigration law. Prior to attending law school, Julie worked in politics and government, including for Congressman Brian Higgins in both his government and campaign offices, and on many state and local political campaigns. She is admitted to practice in the courts of New York State and the U.S. District Court for the Western District of New York. Julie is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and the Erie County Bar Association.

Julie Kruger

Immigration Lawyer