

## JILL MARIE BUSSEY, ESQ.

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### ATTORNEY | ADVOCATE | LEADER

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- Passionate community leader and tenacious advocate who uses excellent writing, communication and leadership skills to make an impact in the lives of immigrants and families as well as the organizations that support them.
- Resourceful, creative, collaborative and highly effective manager of complex immigration matters including large-scale multijurisdictional projects as well as pro bono programs, legal clinics and community outreach events.
- Attorney with extensive experience providing U.S. and global immigration services to individuals and corporate clients spanning a variety of industries including Fortune 500, government and private sector commercial entities, as well as non-governmental organizations.

### PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

#### *President, Board of Directors for FIRN, Inc.*

January 2013 – Present

*FIRN a nonprofit organization in Central Maryland that empowers immigrants, refugees, asylees and other foreign-born individuals by helping them to access community resources and opportunities.*

- Develop and implement strategic plan, including systematically tracking, measuring and evaluating progress towards goals. Review and enhance governance policies and serve as key resource for risk management.
- In partnership with Executive Director and Board, achieved 140 percent increase in public funding in two years, 30 percent increase in staff, significant expansion of outreach and programs.
- Work closely with County Executive's staff, community leaders and key stakeholders in local and state government agencies to develop the *Welcome Howard County Plan*, a comprehensive set of recommendations to make Howard County one of the most welcoming places in America.
- Serve as an ambassador for FIRN and represent the organization as key public relations point of contact, prepare and provide testimony in favor of funding and engage in all related public speaking events.
- Seek opportunities to publicly recognize FIRN's team for providing high quality and effective services. Successfully and enthusiastically nominated FIRN team for ACS 2014 Audrey Robbins Humanitarian Awards.
- Developed partnerships with Department of Homeland Security, Howard County government, Howard Community college, Daughters of the American Revolution, HCPSS JROTC and other community partners to plan and host first Special Naturalization Ceremony in Howard County in over two decades.

#### *Director and Global Immigration Counsel, Pro-Link GLOBAL, Inc.*

January 2013 – July 2014

*Pro-Link GLOBAL is an award-winning consultancy with multiple offices worldwide that specializes in global immigration.*

- Provided legal expertise and accountability for managing a high-volume docket of global immigration cases; prepared complex business visa and immigration petitions, oversaw global consultants and specialists, and acted as a liaison to and managed local global immigration counsel providers throughout the world.
- Collaborated with Executive Committee to engage in strategic decision making for business, identify potential areas of risk, provide guidance on ethics, compliance and risk management practices, as well as develop position description, recruitment plans, and evaluate candidates for senior administrative roles.
- Coordinated with team to develop strategy and execute plan for marketing and communication campaign as well as business development targeting US immigration practices. Work with team to select and develop customer relationship management system. Supervised Manager, Business Development.
- Supervisory experience included utilizing knowledge and interpersonal skills to mentor junior immigration counsel, members of business development and marketing teams as well as members of Global Immigration Group.

#### *Chair, Global Immigration Forum Conference Committee, American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA)*

June 2014

*The 2014 AILA Global Immigration Forum entitled, "Bringing Economic Liberty and Certainty to Global Migration," was a two-track, full day conference focused on global immigration law and policy.*

- Led team of attorney volunteers and liaised with AILA staff to plan, direct and execute highly successful continuing legal education program for over 160 immigration practitioners from around the world.
- Utilized diverse inventory of networks and contacts to develop program curriculum and select faculty to include academic keynote speaker, top government officials, and subject matter experts from over two-dozen global jurisdictions.
- Managed all aspects of publication and supplemental materials to include article solicitation, collection, review and editing.
- Collaborated with an international team to develop and implement communications and marketing plan to promote conference resulting in increased conference registrations.

*The Consumer Protection and UPL Action Committee creates resources for and provides accessible avenues for redress to victims of the Unauthorized Practice of Law (UPL), as well as attorneys who are confronted with instances of notario fraud.*

- Collaborated with Chair and AILA staff members to plan and organize committee activities and reporting including monthly meetings, local engagements, and chapter outreach.
- Met with past and present committee members during AILA annual meeting to review mission and vision of committee and set annual goals.
- Coordinated with Chair and committee members to develop task list of deliverables and target dates. Co-host monthly teleconferences to review tactics, achievements, areas of concern.
- Developed reporting tool to capture and measure impact of committee activities including increasing public education and engagement by working with foreign Embassies and Consulates, federal, state and local agencies and organizations.
- Work with AILA staff to develop and implement communications plan for AILA's Stop Notario Fraud Facebook page and serve as page administrator (<https://www.facebook.com/StopNotarioFraud>) resulting in significant increase in page followers and postings.

### **IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY SKILL SET**

**Client Relationships:** Analyze, learn and integrate client culture in the development of customized immigration solutions. Responsible and accountable for all aspects of client management including: case analysis; develop strategy and provide guidance to team regarding process, time frames and requirements; oversee implementation; written and verbal communications to client regarding case status and reporting; accountable for delivery through the full case/project life-cycle. Serve as key resource for identifying and counseling clients on matters of compliance and emerging trends and implications.

**Immigration Focus:** Lead day-to-day management of client accounts through the management of local resources and global network. Develop customized strategic approaches integrating a life cycle orientation to efficiently deliver on core immigration needs often through the design of innovative solutions. Responsible for: interviews and consulting; programmatic solutions; file, client and case management; supervision and training of team; business development; and administration.

**Practice Profile:** Develop dynamic approaches and customized legal strategies by identifying and analyzing requirements. Plan and oversee implementation, ensure delivery, follow-through and feedback. Successful delivery of a broad range of client advocacy services, including direct negotiation with a broad range of multijurisdictional entities resulting in favorable and positive client outcomes. Communicate with global team and engage in targeted research to maintain situational and cultural awareness. Leverage knowledge and experience of global network to identify, evaluate and track new developments in law and trends.

**Administrative and Management Oversight:** Responsible for team of junior attorneys, legal assistants, project assistants and secretarial and support staff. Work in collaboration with accounting team to monitor revenues, work in progress and outstanding accounts. Work closely with technical support and information management teams to analyze, communicate and review technical requirements, design system, set budget, solicit and evaluate proposals and select case management system. Work with team to develop standardized processes and systems for client and case management to increase efficiency, enhance quality, improve customer service and lower risk. Utilize diplomacy, tact and cultural awareness in order to coordinate, train and manage international team of professionals.

#### **Representative Engagements:**

- Utilized creativity and demonstrated ability to work in a team while leading efforts to assist clients in the preparation and filing of hundreds of Adjustment of Status applications when all became current under U.S. Department of State Visa Bulletin.
- Effectively overcame challenge by USCIS of client's request for extension of B-2 status and, later, effectively sought change of status from B-2 to F-1 status for young woman who survived a brutal kidnapping and rape in South Africa but aged-out of parents' US lawful permanent resident status.
- Successfully argued cancelation of removal for national of El Salvador who fled his country as a child due to violence and who later married US Citizen.
- Appealed denial of B-2 visa status for UK national and spouse of US lawful permanent resident who sought entry to US to join spouse during cancer treatment. Developed and successfully implemented immigration strategy for adult child with significant disability to join stepfather and mother in the US whilst his mother underwent medical treatment.

### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

*Pro-Link GLOBAL, Inc., Bradenton, FL and Columbia, MD*

January 2013 – July 2014

*Director and Global Immigration Counsel*

*Jill Marie Bussey, Attorney at Law, Columbia, MD*

May 2012 – January 2013

*Founder and Attorney*

<i>Goel &amp; Anderson</i> , Reston, VA	April 2011 – May 2012
<i>Partner and Head of Global Immigration Practice (Attorney)</i>	
<i>Baker &amp; McKenzie LLP</i> , Washington, D.C.	April 2005 – February 2011
<i>Attorney, Global Migration &amp; Executive Transfers Practice Group</i>	
<i>Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman</i> , Washington, D.C.	March – April 2005
<i>Attorney, Immigration Group (Contracted)</i>	
<i>Law Offices of Jill Marie Bussey</i> , Baltimore, MD	June 2004 – April 2005
<i>Founder and Attorney</i>	
<i>Shaw Pittman, Potts &amp; Trowbridge</i> , Washington, D.C.	Summer 2002; Feb. 1999 – Aug. 2001
<i>Immigration Legal Assistant, Corporate Technology Practice Group</i>	
<i>Legal Assistant Coordinator, Whitman Walker Pro Bono Program</i>	

## EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS

**Representing Unaccompanied Youth: Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) Training**, Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland, October 2014

**Cultural Proficiency, Level One: Awareness**, HCPSS Department of Professional & Organizational Development

**Community Spanish**, Howard County Community College (non-credit)

**Organizational Sustainability**, Howard Community College Division of Continuing Education & Workforce Development, 2014

**University of Baltimore School of Law, J.D., cum laude** (with Business Concentration), 2004

*Research Assistant to Janet Thompson Jackson, Clinical Fellow*

*Rule 16 Student Attorney*, University of Baltimore Community Development Clinic

*Intern, Community Law Center*

*Dean's Citation for Community Service 2003*

**The George Washington University**, Certificate in Legal Assistant Studies (4.0 GPA), 2001

**The American University**, B.A., Law & Society, 1995

## PUBLIC SPEAKING, PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

- Summer Podcast Series (Moderator), Pro-Link GLOBAL, June – July 2014.
- “Managing Global Immigration - Innovation, Growth and Management,” AILA Global Immigration Forum, Boston, Massachusetts, 2014.
- Senior Editor, 2014 AILA Global Forum Handbook, American Immigration Lawyer Association, June 2014.
- Editor, Navigating the Fundamental of Immigration Law, American Immigration Lawyers Association, 2014. Edition.
- “Pre- and Post- Merger Immigration Compliance,” AILA Global Immigration Forum, San Francisco, California, 2014.
- Senior Editor, 2013 AILA Global Forum Handbook, American Immigration Lawyers Association, June 2013.
- Editor, Navigating the Fundamental of Immigration Law, American Immigration Lawyers Association, 2013. Edition.
- “Corruption Junction,” Pro-Link GLOBAL Webinar, June 2013.
- “Taking Action Under Deferred Action,” Maryland State Bar Association Webinar, August 2012.
- Editor, 2012 AILA Global Forum Handbook, American Immigration Lawyers Association, June 2012.
- “Critical Tax and Employment Considerations for Immigration Attorneys,” Discussion Leader, AILA Global Forum, Nashville, Tennessee, June 2012.
- “Consular Conflict: Perception and Business Reality”, briefing to Texas Immigration Coalition, Dallas, Texas, November 2011.
- “Everything You Wanted to Know About Coming to the U.S. Temporarily”, AILA Washington D.C. Chapter 2011 Fall Conference on Immigration, Rockville, Maryland, November 2011.
- ILW.com’s “Consular Processing for Experts” Webinar, April 2011.
- Editor, The Global Mobility Handbook 2011 Edition, Baker & McKenzie LLP.
- ILW.com’s “Global Migration Panel”, December 2010.
- “USCIS to Require Employer Certification Regarding the Release of Controlled Technology to Certain Foreign National Employees in the United States”, Jill Marie Bussey and Slywia Lis, December 2010.
- Changing Trends for the Global Employer: Benchmarking Best Practices and Must Haves, Baker & McKenzie, September 2010.
- Global Migration & Executive Transfers Global Client Training, Baker & McKenzie, March 2010.
- “Wheel of Chance: Ethics Workshop in Family Immigration”, AILA Annual Conference on Immigration Law, Las Vegas, Nevada, June 2009.
- Immigration & Nationality Law Handbook 2009 Edition, “A Primer on the Ethical Considerations in Family-based Immigration Practice,” by Jill Marie Bussey and Jane W. Chen.

- "Careers in Immigration Law", presented to University of Baltimore, School of Law Clinic Students, Baltimore, Maryland, April 2009.
- "Immigration in a Down Market", briefing to FIRN American Success Awards recipients, Columbia, Maryland, April 2009.
- Insights on International Immigration & Cross Border Opportunities, Labor, Immigration & Employee Benefits Division, U.S. Chamber of Commerce and Baker & McKenzie, February 2009.
- "Ethics of Practice Management", AILA Annual Conference on Immigration Law, Orlando, Florida, June 2007.

## **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT/PRO BONO PROJECTS**

<i>Member, American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA)</i>	2005 - Present
<i>Pro Bono Member, AILA Military Assistance Program</i>	
<i>Chair, Global Immigration Forum Conference Committee 2014</i>	
<i>Site Coordinator, AILA DC Chapter, AILA Citizenship Day 2014</i>	
<i>Vice Chair, Global Immigration Forum Conference Committee 2013</i>	
<i>Vice Chair, AILA UPL/Consumer Protection Committee 2013</i>	
<i>Member, AILA Distance Learning Committee 2013</i>	
<i>Site Coordinator, AILA DC Chapter, AILA Citizenship Day 2013</i>	
<i>Site Coordinator, AILA DC Chapter, AILA DREAMER DAY Workshop 2012</i>	
<i>Founding Member Global Migration Section</i>	
<i>Member, AILA DC Chapter Fall Conference Planning Committee 2012</i>	
<i>Co-Chair MD Bar Committee 2012</i>	
<i>Member, AILA DC Chapter, Citizenship Day Committee 2012</i>	
<i>Member, Board of Directors for FIRN, Inc.</i>	April 2008 - Present
<i>President of the Board 2013-Present (term ends 2015)</i>	
<i>Host and Emcee, Special Naturalization Ceremony 2014</i>	
<i>Vice President of the Board 2011-2013</i>	
<i>Chair, Fundraising Committee 2012-2013</i>	
<i>Chair, Special Naturalization Ceremony Planning Committee 2013</i>	
<i>Member, Howard County Executive Ethnic Roundtable</i>	May 2012 – Present
<i>Facilitator, Howard County Ethnic Community Summit</i>	December 2012
<i>Volunteer, Howard County's Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Celebration</i>	January 2015
<i>Coach, Soccer Association of Columbia (U5 and U6)</i>	2013 – Present

## **BAR ADMISSIONS/PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

Maryland Court of Appeals, *admitted June 2004* (eligible to waive into District of Columbia Bar)

*Member, Maryland State Bar Association*

*Member, American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA)*

*Member, International Bar Association*

*Member, Worldwide ERC*

*Member, Maryland Nonprofits*

*Member, Maryland Immigrant Rights Coalition*

*\*Eligible for work in the United States as well as the European Union.*