

A close-up photograph of the Statue of Liberty's head and crown, set against a blue background with diagonal white lines. The statue's face is the central focus, looking slightly to the right.

Buchalter

IMMIGRATION LAW PRACTICE



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ABOUT US / MEET THE TEAM

We are a team of entrepreneurial minded immigration lawyers who believe in helping guide our clients through the constantly changing labyrinth of laws.

We pride ourselves in offering our clients end-to-end services that are individualized and thorough.

We communicate in plain language; strive to always be accessible, and to build a lasting relationship with our clients.

Our personal lived experiences as immigrants and entrepreneurs inform our philosophy of service provision. We understand the fears and challenges faced during the immigration process because we have each been through a similar path ourselves.



Andrea Bartoloni

Shareholder, Practice Chair

503.226.8622 // ABartoloni@buchalter.com

Mr. Bartoloni is an Honorary Consul of Italy for the State of Oregon. Mr. Bartoloni received recognition from *Chambers USA* in 2023 and 2024 as a Leader in his Field in the area of Immigration (Oregon).



Eileen DaPra

Special Counsel // 206.319.7061 // EDaPra@buchalter.com

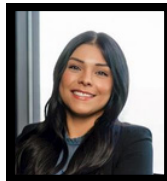
Ms. DaPra is a member of American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) and the Korean-American Bar Association of Washington (KABA)



Kripa Upadhyay

Of Counsel // 206.319.7007 // KUpadhyay@buchalter.com

Ms. Upadhyay has received recognition from *Chambers USA* in 2024 as a leader in her field in the area of Immigration law. Previously named a Rising Star by *Super Lawyers Magazine*, and a rising star by *EB-5 magazine*, she is a frequent speaker at Immigration conferences on matters pertaining to corporate and investor-based immigration. Kripa currently serves on the AILA national EB 5 committee and also serves in leadership positions for various trade organizations promoting transfer of high skilled immigrants to the US and in entities helping overseas corporations expand or move their base of operations to the US.



Candy Gallegos-Artigas

Paralegal // 206.319.7083 // CArtigas@buchalter.com

Candy Gallegos-Artigas is a paralegal with significant experience in a variety of employment based petitions. She also works with family based immigration matters for family members accompanying or following to join individuals on employment or investor based visas. With significant prior work experience in a Human Resource role for a large company in Kansas, she has also worked closely with Kripa Upadhyay on internal I-9 audits and has helped develop an I-9 compliance program for our clients. Candy is the child of first generation immigrants from Mexico and Columbia and is fluent in Spanish.



Samaneh Hansen

Paralegal // 503.889-7912 // SHansen@buchalter.com

Samaneh (Sam) Biria Hansen has over 14 years of experience in preparing and processing nonimmigrant and immigrant visa petitions, U.S. employment-based filings, visa processing at U.S. Embassies and Consulates, investor visas and PERM applications (draft PERM Labor Certification advertisement text, prevailing wage determinations, recruitment documents). Sam is a graduate of Portland State University and is fluent in English, Farsi, and German.



Catherine Willhoff

Paralegal // 503.226.8653 // CWillhoff@buchalter.com

Catherine, originally from Lima, Peru, has worked as a paralegal with family and employment-based immigration cases since 2014. She studied law at the Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos in Peru, earning her Bachelor of Laws in 2011. In 2012, Catherine immigrated to the United States, where she experienced firsthand the challenging immigration process. This experience gave her a profound understanding of the struggles and triumphs of those seeking a better life in a new country. She is fluent in English and Spanish and has an educational background in Italian and French. She also enjoys traveling and learning about cultures and people.

VALUES

TRANSPARENCY

We are advocates for the rights of individuals. We believe that community support and education is the key to success for both, individuals as well as businesses, big and small.

CUSTOMIZED SOLUTIONS

We understand that each client has his or her own unique circumstances; therefore, we take the time to determine what the best opportunity for success is for that specific client, and execute a strategy designed to achieve that goal in the most efficient manner possible.

COMMUNITY

We believe in serving the communities in which we live and work. We are actively involved in a variety of professional, cultural and social organizations in our communities.

ADVOCACY

We want our clients to know the cost, timelines, and scope of our services.

ACCESSIBILITY

We always strive to honor our clients' time and faith in us by responding to all calls and emails in a timely manner. We know the law is often confusing, and we take the time to answer any and all questions to ensure that our clients understand each step of the process and have the help and support they need to reach a successful outcome.

CULTURAL & LINGUISTIC SENSITIVITY

We understand that an individual's lived experience informs his or her decisions; both personal as well as business.

We are proud to be a diverse team of individuals who were raised and lived in various parts of the world and speak a multitude of languages.

SOME OF THE LANGUAGES SPOKEN BY MEMBERS OF BUCHALTER'S IMMIGRATION TEAM INCLUDE:

**English / Farsi / French / Hindi / Italian
Korean / Nepali / Spanish / Urdu**

Investor-Based Immigration

The investor-based 5th Preference (EB-5) is the fastest and most effective route to lawful permanent residence (commonly referred to as “Green Card”).

Investors can either invest in their own project or in a Regional Center project. The regulations allow Investors investing in a Targeted Employment Area (TEA) (which is a rural area or an area where unemployment is at 150% or higher of the Federal Unemployment level) to invest at a lower threshold than those investing in areas outside a TEA.

- **Requires minimum Investment of \$800,000 (TEA Area) or \$1.5 Million in non-TEA Areas (Note: Amounts are subject to change per USCIS rules)**
- **Investor’s application includes Principal Investor, Spouse and Unmarried children under age 21**
- **Direct path to Lawful Permanent Residence or “Green Card”**

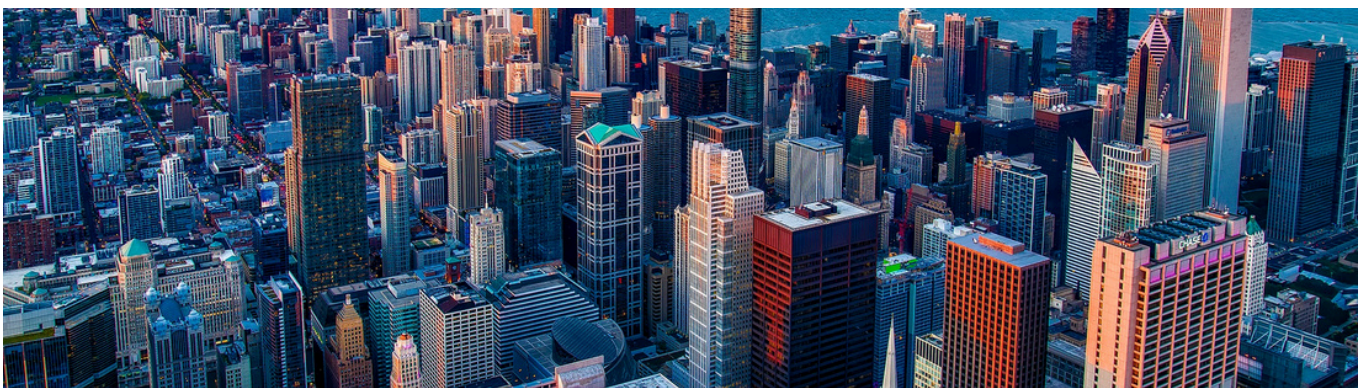
Investor Minimums
\$800,000 TEA Areas
<hr/>
\$1.5 M Non-TEA Areas

To ensure EB-5 clients receive all the legal guidance they need, we work alongside our tax, trust & estate planning, litigation, employment, and wealth management attorneys.

Our Immigration & Corporate Services for L-1 Clients

HOW WE HELP

- Advising on overall process, strategy, and timeline
- Performing due diligence on a chosen business area and location viability for the associated company
- Working with professional business plan writers to draft a 3–5-year business plan tailored to your business
- Assisting with basic corporate formation matters
- Drafting shareholder agreements and operating agreements
- Issuing shares or membership interests
- Appointing board members
- Drafting employment agreements
- Providing tax advice and undertaking filings
- Reviewing lease documentation
- Drafting commercial agreements with customers and suppliers
- Transitioning from an L-1 visa to a Green Card



E-1/E-2 Visas

Investor (E-1 and E-2) visas are based on a treaty between the U.S. and the country of which the applicant is a national. For an E-1 visa, the applicant must be entering the U.S. solely to carry on substantial trade that is international in scope, principally between the U.S. and the foreign state of which he or she is a national. For an E-2 visa, the applicant must invest a substantial amount of capital in a bona fide enterprise. E visas are issued at the Consulate or Embassy outside the United States for periods up to five years. E visas may be renewed indefinitely, although the applicant should not intend to remain in the U.S. permanently.

Our immigration team has successfully guided many individuals from various countries through the process of acquiring either E-1 or E-2 visas for themselves, their spouse, and dependent children. Our support is not restricted to just immigration aspects, but rather to the whole range of services. We stay with our clients through the process for years after securing the E-1 or E-2 to continue to support their growth and changing needs, both in terms of immigration as well as their business.

OUR IMMIGRATION AND CORPORATE SERVICES FOR E-1 AND E-2 CLIENTS

- Advising on overall process, strategy, and timeline
- Performing due diligence on a chosen business area and location viability for the associated company
- Working with professional business plan writers to draft a 3–5-year tailored, business plan tailored
- Assisting with basic corporate formation matters
- Drafting shareholder agreements and operating agreements
- Issuing shares or membership interests Appointing board members
- Drafting employment agreements
- Providing tax advice and undertaking filings Reviewing lease documentation
- Drafting commercial agreements
- Ensure a smooth international franchise launch by providing expert guidance on set-up, navigating tax implications, and addressing immigration concerns.



Employment-Based Immigration

Our immigration team has extensive experience with both temporary and permanent visas for employees. We have successfully secured visas including H-1B for professionals, L-1 Visas for managers and executives, and O-1 Visas for entertainers and other persons of extraordinary ability. Skilled workers and unskilled workers can obtain permanent visas through the PERM labor certification process. Certain persons (including multinational executives, managers, persons of extraordinary ability, and outstanding researchers and professors) can obtain a waiver of the labor certification process through the EB-1. We carefully analyze background and skills to determine alternatives and select the most appropriate visa options.

Beyond securing the right visa, our Immigration team works seamlessly with Buchalter's Labor & Employment Law group to ensure ongoing compliance with U.S. labor laws. This collaboration includes assisting companies in developing compliant employee handbooks, crafting effective onboarding procedures, and addressing any employment-related questions that may arise after the initial visa is secured. This integrated approach ensures a smooth transition for both the company and the foreign national employee.

Buchalter has a substantial employment-based immigration practice, and has successfully secured the following types of visas:

- H-1B and H-1B1 visas
- J-1 visas including Conrad waivers for doctors and waivers of the 2-year home residency requirement
- TN Treaty NAFTA visas
- O-1
- PERM labor certifications
- Outstanding Researchers / Extraordinary Ability (EB-1)
- National Interest Waivers (NIW)

COMPLIANCE FOR EMPLOYERS - I-9 RECORD COMPLIANCE & AUDITS

Compliance for employers is rapidly becoming the most important area of immigration law. We advise employers on how to maintain appropriate immigration records including paper and electronic compliance for I-9 records. We also provide representation at audits by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the U.S. Department of Justice (DoJ), and the U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division.

ON-SITE TRAINING & CREATION OF POLICY MANUAL

We give on-site training to employees regarding I-9 completion, acceptable documents, mismatch letters, document abuse situations, and how to minimize potential discrimination and EEOC claims. We draft appropriate language and policies for inclusion in client HR manuals that include standardized intake procedures, retention policies, and tickler systems for re-verification and document retention.

Global Resources

We provide assistance regarding all client global immigration needs. This includes obtaining visas for U.S. workers being transferred abroad, as well as assisting in the transfer of key personnel from one country to another anywhere in the world. We work with clients to develop a specifically tailored strategy to ensure the success of each global transfer, proactively gathering and pre-processing application materials, overseeing the filing for host country approvals, coordinating consular processing of required visas, and providing a one-stop resource for the applicant and family throughout the process.

The firm's immigration practice team leverages our extensive member network, World Services Group, comprising of global practitioners. This collaboration enables us to assist businesses in identifying which team members require visas and guide clients through the visa application process for destinations worldwide.

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS SET UP AND GLOBAL MOBILITY

For businesses looking to expand services and individuals seeking a second passport, we leverage our extensive network of experts (including lawyers, tax, and investment banking experts) to help businesses with registration/formation formalities, requisite immigration visas, and tax planning for the following regions:

- Africa
- Central America
- Middle East
- Asia Pacific
- Europe
- North America
- Caribbean
- Latin America
- South America



TEMPORARY BUSINESS VISITORS

We assist with:

- Short term assignment planning and B-1 business visitor visa guidance
- Preparing visa application support letters, supporting document procurement, application filing, and visa pick-up where possible, if business visa or work permit



CONTACT US

Buchalter



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