



AMERICAN  
IMMIGRATION  
LAWYERS  
ASSOCIATION

September 12, 2019

Mr. Mark Koumans  
Deputy Director, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services  
Department of Homeland Security  
20 Massachusetts Ave., N.W. Washington, DC 20529

Via email: [Mark.Koumans@uscis.dhs.gov](mailto:Mark.Koumans@uscis.dhs.gov)

Dear Deputy Director Koumans:

On behalf of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), I congratulate you on your recent appointment to the position of Deputy Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

As way of background, AILA is a voluntary bar association of more than 15,000 attorneys and law professors practicing and teaching in the field of immigration and nationality law. Our mission includes the advancement of the law pertaining to immigration and nationality and the facilitation of justice in the field. AILA members regularly advise and represent businesses, U.S. citizens, lawful permanent residents, and foreign nationals regarding the application and interpretation of U.S. immigration laws. Through the course of this work, our members have developed a unique expertise in the processing of applications for immigration benefits and possess a wealth of knowledge, information, and experiences that provides a unique insight on the practical consequences of complex legal and policy matters that often are unforeseen when new policies and procedures are implemented.

Toward that end, for decades, AILA and USCIS (and legacy INS) have met regularly to share information and experiences across every product line and form type. We value USCIS's emphasis on ensuring the effective and efficient operation of our legal immigration system, while maintaining its integrity.

In light of our mutual interests, we respectfully request a meeting with you at your earliest convenience to introduce ourselves and to hear from you with respect to your vision for the agency. To arrange a date and time, or if you would like more information, please contact Shev Dalal-Dheini, Director of Government Relations, at (202) 507-7621 or by e-mail at [sdalal-dheini@aila.org](mailto:sdalal-dheini@aila.org).

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ben Johnson  
Executive Director  
American Immigration Lawyers Association

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