



David S. Rugendorf

Partner



2049 Century Park East
18th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90067

t (310) 312-3118
f (310) 312-3118
dsr@msk.com

legal expertise

David Rugendorf practices immigration and nationality law, providing representation to employers, entrepreneurs, and individuals in administrative petitions to governmental agencies. With a diverse clientele, David serves a wide range of industries, including cosmetics and fragrance, fashion and apparel, emerging technologies, entertainment and media (ranging from major movie studios to commercial production houses to social media personalities and influencers), motor manufacturing, sports, museums, research institutions, investment and finance, commercial airlines, universities, and private foundations.

David counsels his international clients on travel and global mobility issues pertaining to admission to the United States, ensuring seamless transitions. He is well-versed in minimizing the negative immigration consequences associated with criminal convictions and other grounds of inadmissibility, protecting his clients' interests and facilitating their access to the United States.

Additionally, David demonstrates a strong commitment to pro bono work as the co-chair of MSK's Pro Bono Committee.

representative matters

- Managed large-volume visa and immigration strategies for large technology, commercial airlines, and manufacturing companies.
- Facilitated transfers of multinational corporate executives and managers.
- Successfully managed litigation against government agencies to force adjudication on unnecessarily delayed immigration matters.
- Procured visas and green cards for directors, actors, cinematographers, and "below-the-line" talent for major Hollywood studios and independent film producers.

practice areas

labor & employment
immigration
corporate & business transactions
immigration

admissions

California, 1990
Illinois, 1991
U.S. District Court
Central District of California, 1994
Eastern District of California, 1994
Northern District of California, 1990
Southern District of California, 1994
U.S. Court of Appeal, 1990
Ninth Circuit
Sixth Circuit
U.S. Supreme Court, 1994

education

University of California, Los Angeles, Post Graduate Studies in Entertainment Administration, 1998
University of Southern California, Post Graduate Studies in Immigration Law, 1996



David S. Rugendorf

- Obtained visas for athletes from a wide range of sports including boat and auto racing, motocross, and equestrian event competitors and trainers.
- Successfully assisted foreign business owners and high ranking executives in admission to the U.S. despite potentially disqualifying criminal convictions.
- As a pro bono matter, prepared and expedited permanent residency and work authorization applications for legal services agency on behalf of foreign attorney whom the agency brought to the United States to manage Holocaust survivors reparations project.
- As a pro bono matter, prepared an urgent asylum application for a foreign accounting professional and his family, affording them the opportunity to remain safely in the United States indefinitely.

Reported Decisions

- Matter of Guess?, Inc., 2015-PER-00504 (2017)
- People v. Granado (1994) 22 Cal. App. 4th 194
- People v. Sierra (1995) 37 Cal. App. 4th 1690

honors & awards

- Wiley W. Manuel Pro Bono Certificate, State Bar of California (2009, 2022)
- "Top 5% of lawyers in Southern California," Southern California *Super Lawyers* (2005)

professional, business and civic affiliations

- Co-Chair, MSK Pro Bono Committee
- American Immigration Lawyers Association
- Volunteer Attorney, Public Counsel
- Volunteer Attorney, Bet Tzedek Legal Services
- Volunteer Attorney, Florence Immigrant And Refugee Rights Project
- Former Volunteer Attorney, Program for Torture Victims
- Former Volunteer Attorney, Catholic Legal Immigration Network

University of Michigan Law School, J.D., 1990

University of Wisconsin, B.A., 1987; *with Honors; Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society*

Sears Roebuck
Congressional Fellow, 1986

languages

- Spanish

other career experience

- Deputy Public Defender/Alternate Public Defender, Fresno, California (1992-1994)
- Private practice, Immigration law (1994-1998)



David S. Rugendorf

- Former Volunteer Coach, Mentor and Referee, American Youth Soccer Organization

headlines

When Red-Carpet Stars Need Us Visas, One Firm Works Overtime
Daily Journal

MSK's Wellness Program Featured in *The American Lawyer*
The American Lawyer, October 31, 2025

David Rugendorf Mentioned in Michigan Law School's *Law Quadrangle* for Being Named Pro Bono Committee Co-Chair
Michigan Law School's Law Quadrangle, July 24, 2025

David Rugendorf Featured in *The Daily Journal*
December 21, 2017

State Bar of California Honors David Rugendorf
August 17, 2009

Immigration Department Victorious in Pair of Citizenship Cases
July 7, 2009

MSK Obtains US Permanent Residence for Bet Tzedek Attorney
July 18, 2008

media mentions

David Rugendorf Quoted in *LA Times* on Complexity of Recent Immigration Proclamation
July 23, 2020

David Rugendorf Quoted in *Daily Journal* on H-1B Visa Program Changes
June 24, 2020

David Rugendorf Quoted in *Law360* on H-1B Visa Changes
September 10, 2018

David Rugendorf Quoted by *FRS Baseball Network*
June 14, 2018

David Rugendorf Quoted in *The Athletic & Chicago Sun-Times*
June 8, 2018



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David Rugendorf Quoted in *Law360*
January 23, 2018

David Rugendorf Quoted in *Law360*
November 22, 2017

David Rugendorf Quoted in *Daily Journal*
August 8, 2017

David Rugendorf Mentioned in *Law360* Article
August 4, 2017

David Rugendorf Quoted in *Daily Journal*
July 6, 2017

David Rugendorf Quoted in *Law360* on Published Appellate Decision
July 3, 2017

David Rugendorf Quoted in *Daily Journal*
June 27, 2017

David Rugendorf Quoted in *The Wall Street Journal*
January 30, 2017

Lawyers Find Surprises in Immigration Regulations
May 26, 2015

David Rugendorf Quoted in *Daily Journal*
May 19, 2015

publications

Immigration Compliance Aids Foreign Graduates
December 1, 2015

Travel To The United States: Making The Experience Less Harrowing
Bloomberg Law Reports - Immigration, November 2010

Beam Them Up: A Guide to Porting H-1B Aliens to Your Company
October 2009

Putting the Green in Green Card
Environmental Law Reporter, May 27, 2009



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The Patchwork Quilt Of State E-Verify Laws
January 2009

client alerts

White House Issues, Clarifies Proclamation on H-1B Restrictions
MSK Client Alert, September 21, 2025

Trump Administration To Enforce Registration, Address Requirements
MSK Client Alert, March 11, 2025

ICE Inspections, Site Visits and Raids
MSK Client Alert, February 6, 2025

US Adds Israel to Visa Waiver Program/ESTA
MSK Client Alert, September 28, 2023

USCIS to Mail Evidence of Work Authorization to Certain E and L Nonimmigrant Spouses
MSK Client Alert, March 18, 2022

Returning to Your Physical Office After COVID-19?: Remember to Resume Physical Inspection of I-9s
MSK Client Alert, February 24, 2022

US Authorities Implement New Admission Codes for E and L Spouses, Providing for Employment Authorization Automatically Upon Entry
MSK Client Alert, February 10, 2022

New Year Brings Changes To Immigration, US Travel
MSK Client Alert, January 13, 2021

USCIS: Approval Notices May (Temporarily) Evidence Authorization to Work in US
MSK Client Alert, August 20, 2020

Immigration Proclamation Sets Limited Curbs
President Suspends Temporary Entry of Certain Immigrants Due to COVID-19 Economic Fallout
MSK Client Alert, April 23, 2020

Don't Get Stuck With COVID-19
US Immigration In The Time of the Coronavirus
MSK Client Alert, March 23, 2020

ICE To Increase STEM OPT Worksite Inspections
MSK Client Alert, August 27, 2019

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los angeles
t 310.312.2000
f 310.312.3100

new york
t 212.509.3900
f 212.509.7239

washington, dc
t 202.355.7900
f 202.355.7899



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US Visa Applicants Now Required To Provide Social Media Identifiers

MSK Client Alert, June 7, 2019

H-1B Visas: Employers Be Aware of Potential Changes

MSK Client Alert, December 11, 2018

USCIS Extends (and Expands) Premium Processing Ban

MSK Client Alert, August 31, 2018

Your Driver's License Is Still Valid For Domestic Air Travel, At Least For Now

MSK Client Alert, January 11, 2018

Hold That Call International Travelers: CBP Doubles Down on Airport Searches of Electronic Devices

MSK Client Alert, January 9, 2018

420 in 3...2...1...

MSK Client Alert, December 26, 2017

The Only Thing Certain is Uncertainty

MSK Client Alert, September 26, 2017

International Travel Alert: Change In Policy Regarding Advance Parole Travel Document Applications

MSK Client Alert, August 23, 2017

President Trump's Executive Order: Travel Ban

MSK Client Alert, March 7, 2017

Implementation of Executive Order Imposing Temporary Travel and Refugee Ban

MSK Client Alert, March 7, 2017

President Trump's Executive Order Prohibiting Entry of Certain Individuals to the United States

MSK Client Alert, January 27, 2017

It's Here: H-4 Spouse Work Authorization is Now A Reality (For Some)

MSK Client Alert, February 24, 2015

Obama's Reboot of U.S.-Cuba Relations: What Does It Mean?

MSK Client Alert, December 2014

Take a Number: The U.S. State Department Dramatically Alters Waiting Times for Indian Nationals Awaiting Employment-Based Green Cards

MSK Client Alert, July 2013

EB-5 Regional Centers: Pooled Resources For Job Creation With "Green Cards" As Rewards

MSK Client Alert, July 2009

msk.com

los angeles
t 310.312.2000
f 310.312.3100

new york
t 212.509.3900
f 212.509.7239

washington, dc
t 202.355.7900
f 202.355.7899



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Green Cards for Investors in Troubled Businesses: A Reward for Preserving American Jobs

MSK Client Alert, June 2009

Employer Update: H1B and E-verify

MSK Client Alert, April 2009

Consular Processing Update

MSK Client Alert, September 2008

U.S. To Prescreen Visa Waiver Travelers

MSK Client Alert, August 2008

2005 Omnibus Appropriations Bill: H-1B/L-1 Visas

MSK Client Alert, December 2004

U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services Delay Implementation of Revised Form I-9 Employment Eligibility Verification Form

MSK Client Alert, February 2009

E-Verify Contractor Rule Suspended Until 5/21

MSK Client Alert, January 2009

events & speaking engagements

VISA & Residence Permits to Work in the U.S.

October 23, 2017

Podcast: SCOTUS Sum-Up

June 30, 2017