



Howard D. Shapiro

Partner, through his Professional Corporation

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legal expertise

Howard Shapiro co-chairs MSK's Immigration Department and has decades of experience providing immigration counsel with a unique emphasis on the representation of the film, television, music, video game, and new media industries. He regularly advises large corporations, small businesses and individuals on a wide variety of immigration matters, offering seasoned expertise pertaining to corporate reorganizations, transfer of executives, managers, professionals and specialists, temporary work permits and permanent residence and citizenship applications. His experience includes extensive counseling to employers on immigration aspects of labor and employment matters, including I-9 compliance and audits, and E-Verify issues.

Additionally, Howard regularly advises high net-worth individuals on immigration aspects of transnational trade and investment, family law, and tax & estate planning matters.

representative matters

- Consulted with major video game development studio to structure provisions of the corporate divestiture agreement with former parent company and publisher in order to optimize immigration benefits for retained foreign employees.
- Advised leading apparel manufacturer regarding audit and enforcement actions by Immigration and Customs Enforcement, resulting in highly favorable agreement with ICE.
- Structured visa issues for relocation of motion picture visual effects team from Germany to the United States.
- Obtained permanent resident status for seminal rock musician based upon unique interpretation of federal criminal law provisions.

practice areas

- labor & employment
- immigration
- immigration specialties
- cross-border practice
- video game

admissions

California, 1992

education

Lewis & Clark Law School, J.D., 1992

International Business Law Fellowship; Cornelius Honor Society; Davis Wright Tremaine International Writing Award

Rice University, B.A., 1989; with Honors

languages

- Mandarin (Beijing Languages Institute and University of Shanghai School of Literary Arts)

other career experience

- Law clerk to U.S. Immigration Judges in Seattle, San Diego, and El Paso through United States Attorney

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washington, dc
t 202.355.7900
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Howard D. Shapiro

- Overcame significant union and government opposition to temporary employment visa for Latin musician/television host.

General's Honors Program

honors & awards

- Recognized by *Best Lawyers in America*® in Immigration Law (2019-2026)
- "Who's Who Legal: Corporate Immigration 2015," Who's Who Legal (2015)
- AV® Preeminent™ Rating, Martindale-Hubbell
- "One to Watch in 2016: Corporate Immigration," Corporate LiveWire Legal Awards

professional, business and civic affiliations

- American Immigration Lawyers Association

headlines

37 MSK Attorneys Named Among *The Best Lawyers in America*® for 2026
Best Lawyers, August 21, 2025

34 MSK Attorneys Named Among *The Best Lawyers in America*© for 2025
August 15, 2024

38 MSK Attorneys Named Among *The Best Lawyers in America*© for 2024
August 17, 2023

26 MSK Attorneys Named Among *The Best Lawyers in America*© for 2022
August 19, 2021

33 MSK Attorneys Named Among *The Best Lawyers in America*© for 2021
August 20, 2020

27 MSK Attorneys Named Among *The Best Lawyers in America*© for 2020
August 15, 2019

The Best Lawyers in America© 2019 Recognizes 24 Attorneys from MSK
August 15, 2018



Howard D. Shapiro

media mentions

Howard Shapiro Quoted in *Compliance Week*
September 15, 2009

client alerts

H-1B/H-4 Visa Update: U.S. State Department Expands Online Presence Review to Include H-1B and H-4 Visa Applicants
Msk Client Alert, December 5, 2025

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

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

Remote Work Blurs Boundaries
Working Remotely Triggers Immigration Compliance Regulations
MSK Client Alert, March 30, 2020

U.S. Immigration to Suspend Premium Processing for All H-1B Petitions
MSK Client Alert, March 7, 2017

MSK's Annual Labor & Employment Update
January 11, 2017

MSK's Annual Labor & Employment Law Update
MSK Client Alert, January 12, 2016

Fraud Reduction Efforts in "Green Card" Processing Will Increase Costs For Employers
MSK Client Alert, August 2007

O's and P's - The Entertainment and Sports Visas
MSK Client Alert, March 2007

events & speaking engagements

California Employment Law Year in Review
December 10, 2025

The New Arena: Legal Considerations Where Sports Meet Entertainment
June 11, 2025

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NOW 2024

March 7, 2024

2023 AILA Fall CLE Conference and Webcast

September 29, 2023

Nordic Oscar Week 2023 Film & Television Program

March 8, 2023

MSK's Labor & Employment "Year in Review" Seminar

January 11, 2023

Employment and Immigration Issues

May 15, 2017

Innovation & Technology Council

May 9, 2017

Start-Ups: From Legal Issues to Building a Successful Business

April 20, 2017

MSK's Annual Labor & Employment Law Update

January 11, 2017

US Visa Options for Your Business

Consulate General of Brazil in Los Angeles

July 28, 2016

MSK's Annual Labor & Employment Law Update

January 2016

U.S. Immigration Law Update, MSK Employers' Legal Update

January 2013

U.S. Immigration Law Update, MSK Employers' Legal Update

January 2012

Latest Issues for Import/Export Compliance Professionals

September 2011

2010 U.S. Immigration Law Update

March 2011

Immigration Issues for Entertainment Lawyers

November 2010

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Immigration Laws and Issues of Importance to the Film, TV and Music Industries
October 10, 2009

Immigration Laws and Issues of Importance to the Film, TV and Music Industries
August 24, 2009

Frequent speaker at industry conferences, including Game Developers Conference, PIHRA, Sterling Education, and at local, statewide, and national professional association conferences