



**Rita Sostrin**  
**PARTNER**

**Rita Sostrin** is a founding partner of Sostrin Immigration Lawyers, LLP. Prior to launching Sostrin Immigration Lawyers, she acquired over 15 years of immigration law experience working at top immigration law firms and serving in various leadership positions on behalf of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA). Ms. Sostrin has become known as one of the leading experts in immigration law matters for individuals of extraordinary abilities. She frequently receives invitations to speak at national and regional conferences and to write for legal publications. Having established an impressive record of winning complex cases in this area of legal practice, Ms. Sostrin is routinely approached by the arts, entertainment, academic and medical communities to engage her legal representation and counsel.

Throughout her professional career, Ms. Sostrin has represented a diverse array of clients across the United States and abroad, handling all aspects of employment-based immigration for leading academic institutions, medical centers, and entertainment companies, focusing on visas for the immigration of individuals with extraordinary abilities. With increasingly greater restrictions on immigration policies, Ms. Sostrin's experience in managing intricate cases is more invaluable than ever. Consequently, in addition to assisting her own clients, Ms. Sostrin's counsel is frequently sought by fellow colleagues within the legal community.

Ms. Sostrin is included in *The International Who's Who of Corporate Immigration Lawyers*, *Chambers USA*, *The Best Lawyers in America*, and *U.S. News & World Report Best Lawyers*, publications that list top attorneys based on extensive peer review. Ms. Sostrin was also honored by AILA's *President's Commendation* for her outstanding service. She is a member of AILA's Arts, Culture, Entertainment & Science Committee and Annual Conference Committee, Board Member of the International Medical Graduate (IMG) Taskforce, Senior Editor of *Immigration Practice Pointers*, and Periodicals Review Board Member for VOICE: An Immigration Dialogue and Inside Immigration. In recent years, Ms. Sostrin has served as Chair of AILA's California Service Center Liaison Committee, Member of AILA's Service Center Operations Committee, Vice-Chair of AILA's Healthcare Professionals/Physicians Committee, and Vice-Chair of AILA's Board of Publications. In addition, she has authored numerous articles on immigration issues and served as an editor for several definitive books and publications, including *Kurzban's Immigration Law Sourcebook*.

**Education:**

HAMLIN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, *Juris Doctor (J.D.)*, Minneapolis, Minnesota  
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, *Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)*, International Relations, St. Paul, Minnesota



### Bar and Court Memberships:

United States Supreme Court  
Minnesota

### Professional Service and Affiliations:

- \* Co-Founder, Arts, Sports & Entertainment (ASE) Immigration Taskforce, 2010 to Present
- \* Member, AILA Periodicals Review Board, 2010 to Present
- \* Senior Editor, *Immigration & Nationality Law Handbook* and *Immigration Practice Pointers*, 2005 to Present
- \* Treasurer, International Medical Graduate (IMG) Taskforce, 2000 to Present
- \* Member, AILA Arts, Culture, Entertainment & Science Committee, 2014 to 2015; 2016 – Present
- \* Member, AILA Annual Conference Committee, 2014 to 2015; 2016 – Present
- \* Chair, AILA-California Service Center Liaison Committee, 2011 to 2014; 2006 to 2008
- \* Member, AILA Service Center Operations Committee, 2011 to 2014; 2006 to 2008
- \* Editor, *Immigration Options for Academics & Researchers*, Second Edition, 2011
- \* Vice Chair, AILA Healthcare Professional/Physician Committee, 2009 to 2010
- \* Vice Chair, AILA Board of Publications, 2008 to 2009
- \* Member, AILA Board of Publications, 2008 to 2010
- \* Associate Editor, *Immigration Options for Physicians*, Third Edition, 2008 to 2009
- \* Member, Board of Directors, HIAS, 2004 to 2009
- \* Member, AILA-California Service Center Liaison Committee, 2002 to 2006
- \* Associate Editor, *Immigration Options for Physicians*, Second Edition, 2004

### Honors:

- \* Listed in *U.S. News & World Report Best Lawyers*, 2014 to Present
- \* Listed in *Best Lawyers of America*, 2012 to Present
- \* Listed in *Chambers USA*, 2009 to Present
- \* Listed in *The International Who's Who of Corporate Immigration Lawyers*, 2005 to Present
- \* Awarded AILA President's Commendation for *Outstanding Service as Chair of the CSC Liaison Committee*, 2008

### Publications:

1. "Researching the Researchers: Developing Immigrant Visa Petitions for Researchers," (with R. Aronson et al.), *Immigration Practice Pointers*, 2016-17 Edition (2016).
2. "FAQs for Representing IMGs," (with S. Seltzer et al.), *Immigration Practice Pointers*, 2015-16 Edition (2015).



3. "The Mystery of Comparable Evidence," *27th Annual California CLE Conference Handbook* (2014).
4. "Consultation Requirements for Beneficiaries of O-1 Petitions," (with L. Kushner et al.), *Immigration & Nationality Law Handbook*, 2014-15 Edition (2014).
5. "Demystifying the Final Merits Analysis of Extraordinary Ability," (with R. Caballero, et al.), *Immigration & Nationality Law Handbook*, 2013-14 Edition (2013).
6. "When Eat, Pray, and Love Doesn't Work, Respond, Build and Sue," (with R. Cohen, et al.), *Immigration & Nationality Law Handbook*, 2012-13 Edition (2012).
7. "The Kazarian Two-Step," *Immigration Options for Academics & Researchers*, Second Edition (2011), 247-256.
8. "Seven Things College Counsel Must Know About Immigration Law," (with D. Berger, et al.), *Immigration Options for Academics & Researchers*, Second Edition (2011), 11-25.
9. "Legal Brief: Making a Case for the Extraordinary Scientist," *Legal Briefs on Immigration Reform*, Robinson Omnimedia Publishing & Studios (2011), 392-402.
10. "H-1B Visas for Physicians-in-Training: a Marathon or an Obstacle Course?" (with A. Dgebuadze), *The Physician Immigration Book*, ILW (2011).
11. "Schedule A, Group II: Immigrant Visa Standards and Practice Tips" (with A. Dgebuadze), *Immigration & Nationality Law Handbook*, 2010-11 Edition (2010). Updated version published in *Immigration Options for Academics & Researchers*, Second Edition (2011), 261-270.
12. "Dissecting USCIS' E-1-1 RFE Template" (with S. Seltzer, D. Berger, A. Dgebuadze, D. Butte, and S. Buffett), *13th Annual AILA New York Chapter Immigration Symposium Handbook* (2010).
13. "State of the Union in the Universe of EB-1 Petitions" (with A. Dgebuadze), *Immigration & Nationality Law Handbook*, 2010-11 Edition (2010).
14. "Responding to Difficult RFEs: 'The Secret' to Winning EB-11, EB-12 and NIW Cases" (with R. Aronson and D. Ware), *Immigration & Nationality Law Handbook*, 2009-10 Edition (2009).



15. "Practical Guide to Conrad Waivers: Thirty, ... Two, One, Gone!" (with S. Baker), *Immigration Options for Physicians*, Third Edition (2009), 45-55.
16. "HHS Waivers of the Two-Year Requirement: An Overview of Clinical and Research Waiver Programs," *Immigration Options for Physicians*, Third Edition (2009), 99-111.
17. "Two Suitcases and \$70," *Passages, The Magazine of HIAS*, Spring (2007), 9-10.
18. "USCIS California Service Center (CSC) – An Unofficial Guide" (with R. Caudle), *20th Annual California Chapters Conference Handbook* (2007).
19. "The Revival of Schedule A, Group II: Is 'Exceptional' in Vogue?" *Immigration & Nationality Law Handbook*, 2006-07 Edition (2006), 443-453. Updated version published in *Immigration Options for Artists and Entertainers* (2007), 49-59.
20. "Employment-Based Petitions Exempt from Labor Certification" (with A. Chehrazi et al.), *Immigration & Nationality Law Handbook*, 2005-06 Edition (2005), 291-310.
21. "How to Prepare an Extraordinary Case for an Academic of Extraordinary Ability," *Immigration Options for Academics and Researchers* (2005), 157-163.
22. "The Top Ten Myths About Extraordinary Ability: What Others May Know, but Would Not Tell You," *Immigration & Nationality Law Handbook*, 2004-05 Edition (2004), 79-91. Updated version published in *Immigration Options for Physicians*, Second Edition (2004), 173-185.
23. "H-1B Update: Annual Cap Strategies, Current Adjudication Trends, and a Seventh-Year Extension Analysis" (with D. Shenoy et al.), *Immigration & Nationality Law Handbook*, 2003-04 Edition (2003), 39-53. Reprinted in *Travel for Work and Business. Application, Admission, and Re-Entry After 9/11*, Revised Edition (2004), 103-116.
24. "HHS Waivers of the Two-Year Requirement," *Immigration & Nationality Law Handbook*, 2002-03 Edition (2002), 141-149. Updated version published in *Immigration Options for Physicians*, Second Edition (2004), 135-143.
25. "Minding Your Os and Ps: Obtaining 'O' and 'P' Visas for Entertainers" (with M. Tomson), *The New Face of Immigration* (2002), 145-151.
26. "Qualifying Scholars, Professors & Researchers for Immigrant Visas Under the First Preference Category: Putting the 'Extra' in Extraordinary and Giving the



Outstanding 'Standing,'" *Immigration & Nationality Law Handbook*, 2002-03 Edition (2002), 176-185.

27. "Waivers of the Two-Year Requirement Sponsored by the Department of Health and Human Services: Give Us Your Tired, Your Poor, Your Overworked Researchers," *Fourth Annual AILA New York Chapter Symposium* (2001), 88-98.

### **Speaking Engagements:**

1. "Quirky Issues in NIVs for IMGs," Physician Immigration Law Institute, Advanced Issues for J-1 Physician Employers & Practitioners, Washington, DC (December 5, 2016) (invited).
2. "The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: Dealing with RFEs," 2016 AILA Advanced Business and Removal Issues Conference, New York, NY (October 10, 2016) (Discussion Leader).
3. "Researchers Don't Always Wear Lab Coats: Taking Advantage of Special Provisions for Researchers," Annual Conference of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, Las Vegas, NV (June 22, 2016).
4. "Removing the 'OOPs' from Os and Ps," Web Seminar of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (August 18, 2015).
5. "OMG, I Have an IMG! Working with International Medical Graduates," Annual Conference of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, National Harbor, MD (June 19, 2015) (Discussion Leader).
6. "Extra! Extra! The Latest News on Extraordinary Ability," 2015 Upper Midwest Immigration Conference, Minneapolis, MN (April 24, 2015).
7. "Strategies for O-1/EB-1 Peittions of Extraordinary Ability," 27<sup>th</sup> Annual AILA California Chapters Conference, San Jose, CA (November 14, 2014) (Discussion Leader).
8. "O and P Practice: The Changing Landscape for Athletes and Entertainers," Annual Conference of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, Boston, MA (June 21, 2014) (Discussion Leader).
9. "Service Center Updates," 2014 AILA Midwest Regional Conference, Chicago, IL (March 14, 2014).



10. "Strategies & Considerations for Gaining H-1B Cap Exemption," Web Seminar of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (December 12, 2013).
11. "Masters: EB-1 in the Age of *Kazarian*," Annual Conference of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, San Francisco, CA (June 29, 2013) (Discussion Leader).
12. "Service Centers Update," 2013 AILA Midwest Regional Conference, Chicago, IL (March 15, 2013).
13. "Lifestyles of the Extraordinary and Outstanding," AILA Southern California Chapter Meeting, Los Angeles, CA (November 28, 2012).
14. "Immigration Options for Engineers," Annual Conference of the Society for Hispanic Professional Engineers, Dallas, TX (November 16, 2012).
15. "California Service Center Update," 25<sup>th</sup> Annual AILA California Chapters Conference, San Diego, CA (November 9, 2012).
16. "Visa Alternatives in a Season of H-1B Drought," Web Seminar of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (October 30, 2012).
17. "Responding to Difficult RFEs: EB-2 and EB-3," Annual Conference of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, Nashville, TN (June 16, 2012).
18. "Service Center Updates/Visa Bulletin Behind the Scenes," 2012 AILA Midwest Regional Conference, Chicago, IL (March 16, 2012).
19. "J-1 Waivers In-Depth," Audio Seminar of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (January 31, 2012).
20. "Contract Challenges Facing Immigrant Physicians and Their Employers," Web Seminar of the American Health Lawyers Association (November 17, 2011).
21. "Immigration Options for Engineers," Annual Conference of the Society for Hispanic Professional Engineers, Anaheim, CA (October 27, 2011).
22. "Two Tier or Not Two Tier—Application of the *Kazarian* Decision in EB-1(1) Extraordinary Ability and EB-1(2) Outstanding Researcher Petitions," Audio Seminar of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (June 30, 2011).



23. "EB-1 or NIW: A Strategic Approach," Annual Conference of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, San Diego, CA (June 17, 2011) (Discussion Leader).
24. "Practical Tools for Preparing Extraordinary Cases for Academics of Extraordinary Ability," National Association of Foreign Student Advisors (NAFSA) Annual Conference, Vancouver, Canada (June 1, 2011) (Discussion Leader).
25. "Two Steps (Forward?): Outstanding Professor and Researcher Petitions after *Kazarian*," Audio Seminar of the National Association of Foreign Student Advisors (April 4, 2011).
26. "My Case Was Denied – Now What Do I Do?" 2011 AILA Midwest Regional Conference, Chicago, IL (March 28, 2011).
27. "Immigration Options for Professionals," Eastern Technical Leadership Conference of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, Orlando, FL (March 18, 2011).
28. "Physicians for Experts: Waivers and Nonimmigrant Visa Options," Audio Seminar of Immigration Lawyers on the Web (February 24, 2011).
29. "Friend of Foe? The Relationship between Scholar Advisors and Attorneys," Regional NAFSA Conference, Reno, NV (October 28, 2010) (Discussion Leader).
30. "Moving to the Head of the Class – EB-1 and NIW Petitions," Audio Seminar of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (September 14, 2010).
31. "Schedule A Professions and Group II: Revisiting an Old Friend," Annual Conference of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, National Harbor, MD (June 30, 2010) (Discussion Leader).
32. "Advising Faculty and Staff About Permanent Residence," National Association of Foreign Student Advisors (NAFSA) Annual Conference, Kansas City, MO (June 4, 2010).
33. "Alternatives to Labor Certification: EB-1A, EB-1B, and NIW," AILA Spring 2010 Texas Chapter Conference, Austin, TX (April 16, 2010).
34. "PERM-Exempt Options," Immigration Options for Physicians: Advanced Strategies for Providing Proper Diagnosis and Treatment, In-Person Conference and Webcast of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (October 30, 2009) (Discussion Leader).



35. "National Interest Waivers—New Trends and Tricky Issues," Audio Seminar of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (June 30, 2009) (Discussion Leader).
36. "Responding to Extraordinary Ability/NIW RFEs," Annual Conference of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, Las Vegas, NV (June 6, 2009) (Discussion Leader).
37. "Marriage of Convenience or Real Love? Immigration Law Firms and International Student Offices Can Find the Perfect Relationship," NAFSA Regions I & XII Bi-Regional Conference, Honolulu, HI (November 14, 2008).
38. "Silver Into Gold: Transforming Your Case Into EB-1 or NIW," Annual Conference of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, Vancouver, Canada (June 26, 2008).
39. "The Latest in Business Immigration," Seminar of Sterling Education Services, Pasadena, CA (May 29, 2008).
40. "California Service Center Update," Monthly Meeting of the San Diego Chapter of AILA, San Diego, CA (April 16, 2008) (Discussion Leader).
41. "Developments at the California Service Center," 20<sup>th</sup> Annual AILA California Chapters Conference, San Diego, CA (November 8, 2007) (Discussion Leader).
42. "Healthcare and Immigration Processes in the Era of Homeland Security: An Update on Recent Developments," Web Seminar of the American Health Lawyers Association (October 24, 2007).
43. "Strategies to Solve Processing and Adjudication Delays," Telephone Conference of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (October 11, 2007) (Discussion Leader).
44. "Inside Passage: Service Center Navigation Rules," 2007 AILA Alaskan Cruise Conference, Onboard Celebrity Infinity (August 6, 2007).
45. "How to Make Exceptional Clients Think You're Extraordinary: Avoiding Quota Pitfalls through Select EB-1 & EB-2 Visa Categories," Web Seminar of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (2007).
46. "California Service Center Panel," 19<sup>th</sup> Annual AILA California Chapters Conference, Monterey, CA (November 4, 2006) (Discussion Leader).





47. "Obtaining Green Cards for Professors and Researchers," Regional Conference of National Association of Foreign Student Advisors, Las Vegas, NV (2006) (Discussion Leader).
48. "Representing the Best and the Brightest: What's So Special, and How to Prove It," Annual Conference of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, San Antonio, TX (2006) (Discussion Leader).
49. "Navigating Through the California Service Center (CSC) For Newer Practitioners," Telephone Conference of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (2006).
50. "Bi-Specialization Six Months Later," Telephone Conference of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (2006).
51. "Immigration Options for the World's Movers and Shakers: Extraordinary Ability, Outstanding Researchers and National Interest Waivers," Audio Conference of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (2005).
52. "Employment Based Petitions Exempt from Labor Certification," Annual Conference of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, Salt Lake City, UT (2005).
53. "Update on the California Service Center of USCIS," 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Immigration & Naturalization Institute, Practising Law Institute, San Francisco, CA (2005).
54. "H-1B Visas," Business Immigration Law in California Seminar of Lorman Education Services, Los Angeles, CA (2004).
55. "Non-Immigrant Visas," 2004 AILA Fundamentals of Immigration Law Practice Conference, Los Angeles, CA (2004).
56. "Immigrant Visas: Employment Based," 2004 Fall CLE Conference of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, Chicago, IL (2004).
57. "Representing the Best and the Brightest," Annual Conference of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, Philadelphia, PA (2004).
58. "Deconstructing H-1Bs," Annual Conference of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, New Orleans, LA (2003).
59. "Professors and Researchers, Occupational Workshop," Annual Conference of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, San Francisco, CA (2002).



60. "Visas for Entertainers," 15<sup>th</sup> Annual AILA California Chapters Conference, Monterrey, CA (2002).
61. "Visas for Professionals," Business Immigration Law in California Seminar of Lorman Education Services, Los Angeles, CA (1999).
62. Multiple lectures on various immigration law topics at the following organizations:
  - University of California, Los Angeles
  - Cedars-Sinai Medical Center
  - California Institute of Technology
  - Jet Propulsion Laboratory
  - Argonne National Laboratory
  - University of Southern California
  - Children's Hospital Los Angeles
  - Los Angeles Biomedical Research Institute
  - Chapman University
  - California State University, Long Beach
  - Florida State University
  - Florida A&M University
  - University of Pittsburgh
  - University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
  - American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin
  - Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers