

# Identifying **10** Leading Immigration Attorneys

For years the founder of Hair Club for Men sold the goods by assuring us, "I'm not just the president, I'm also a client." Likewise, our 10 Leading Lawyers include several whose own families are fairly recent arrivals to the United States. They know from personal experience why people seek American visas, green cards, and, ultimately, citizenship.

As for *Legal Times*, we discovered in the process of putting this report together that one of our colleagues relied on a Leading Lawyer to obtain his green card many years ago. But, we hasten to add, that employee had no role in selecting, reporting on, or editing the profiles in this report.



How did we choose the top 10? We solicited suggestions from readers. Freelance reporter (and former *Legal Times* editor) Jenna Greene did extensive reporting. And then we settled on 10 outstanding attorneys, whose stories we tell here.

# Leading LAWYERS

## Ten of the D.C. Area's Top Immigration Attorneys

### Andrew Greenfield

**Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy**

Andrew Greenfield speaks with the eager confidence of a man on a mission.

"Making sure a company's immigration house is in order is my prime concern," says the 39-year old managing partner of Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy's D.C. office. "You've got to understand, at a very sophisticated level, the nature of a client's business."

A slew of multinational companies, including Marriott International Inc., Rolls-Royce, France Telecom, and the Ritz-Carlton Hotel Co., turn to Greenfield for that kind of assistance and insight.

"Because he invests the time to understand our business, he anticipates our needs and he's able to brief us on any legislative changes or rules that would impact us," says Charles Griffin, senior manager of relocation services for Booz Allen Hamilton Inc.

Jeffrey Ward, assistant general counsel at the Timberland Co., echoes that praise, noting that Greenfield, on his own time, paid a visit to the apparel maker's New Hampshire headquarters just to learn more about company operations.

"He's done a fantastic job for us," says Ward. He now uses only Greenfield for the company's immigration work, which primarily entails obtaining visas and green cards for Timberland employees.

Ward praises Greenfield's responsiveness. "He's seemingly always available," he says. And he lauds Greenfield's subject-matter expertise: "He's able to boil it down. He can talk in a non-legalistic form to human resources professionals as well as the employees who are subject to the immigration process."

Visa work makes up a large portion of Greenfield's practice. "Every single foreign national hire" requires an analysis of the appropriate visa, he says. Highly skilled workers can enter this country on H-1B visas, while intercompany transfers may proceed with L visas. Another option for management-level employees is the E visa, which is limited to nationals of countries that have commercial treaties with the United States.

At network services provider BT Radianz, which is based in New York but is part of British Telecommunications, many employees move back and forth across the Atlantic, says legal-department head Hal Bretan. According to Bretan, Greenfield makes sure the process "works like a well-oiled machine."



Andrew Greenfield

DIEGO M. RADZINSKI

Bretan also praises Greenfield for his command of immigration law, noting that he "always answers my question, plus a couple of others that I should have asked. He gives me just the right level of detail." As for responsiveness, Bretan says he couldn't ask for more. "He treats me as though I was the biggest client he had," he says.

Sometimes it's the smaller client, however, that leads to the more memorable case. Take the Fulbright scholar from Mexico who wanted to extend his stay and turned to Greenfield for help. J visas, issued for educational- and cultural-exchange programs, require the recipient to go home for two years before seeking permanent residency in the United States. A waiver of the requirement, which is always hard to get, is almost unheard of for Fulbright scholars because the foreign and U.S. governments themselves are underwriting the exchange program.

But in this case, the man's American-born daughter was being treated for a rare birth defect that fused her fingers and her toes together and caused her legs to stop growing. Greenfield successfully argued that returning to Mexico would cause undue hardship for the family.

"It felt great to be responsible for ensuring that the government did the right thing for people who were so sincerely deserving of relief," says Greenfield.

Another significant part of Greenfield's practice deals with compliance issues. He helps companies properly verify that all employees are eligible to work in the United States and assists them with audits by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. He also makes sure that clients don't violate the competitive-wage and working-condition requirements of the immigration laws. And when companies reorganize or merge, he checks that they comply with all relevant immigration laws.

Greenfield earned his law degree in 1992 from George Washington University Law School. He first went to work for Kuder, Smollar & Friedman in Washington, D.C., and then jumped to Freilicher & Hoffman in 1994. Four years later he moved to Shaw, Pittman, Potts & Trowbridge, where he remained until 2002, when Austin Fragomen Jr. invited Greenfield to join his firm's New York office. He returned to Washington in 2005 to head the eight-lawyer D.C. office of the 130-lawyer immigration firm.

These days, even when he's surrounded by piles of paper, Greenfield says, he never forgets "that there's a human being at the end of everything we do."