

CLASSIFIED

SECRET
USCIS “TOOLS”

Available Only To Attorneys

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SECRET USCIS “TOOLS” AVAILABLE ONLY TO ATTORNEYS

Over the past several years, I have talked to clients about their complex immigration problems and why they need an attorney’s help. Potential clients have also called me and asked “do I really need an attorney to file my case?” I can say without a doubt, that in problematic cases, potential clients should definitely retain counsel and here is why: believe it or not, a great attorney has many tools in his/her toolbox to utilize to obtain the client’s favorable result.

Unfortunately, I think that “*one bad apple spoils the barrel.*” Clients have shelled out thousands of dollars to their attorneys who, for whatever reason, have lost the motivation to “advocate vigorously” for their clients. Understandably, some of these clients have taken matters into their own hands, and in many cases, have obtained favorable results on their own. Word then spreads like wildfire that “*my attorney didn’t do anything even though I paid [him/her] thousands of dollars. I...and got an approval on my own! You don’t need an attorney to...*” Other clients have changed attorneys and paid exorbitant legal fees to large or well-known law firms who have political influence or access to local Congressmen.

The sad (but truthful fact) is that if you can find a knowledgeable (not to be confused with “experienced”) and passionate attorney, that attorney can unlock many avenues to obtain a favorable result from USCIS.

An attorney has options available beyond those well-known options available to unrepresented applicants such as **USCIS Ombudsman Case Assistance Request, Infopass Appointments and Services Requests** with the National Customer Service Center. Since attorneys must spend hours to avail themselves of these resources, many attorneys do not have the time, interest, or passion.

Below are just a few of the “secrets” that I have accessed as an attorney who was willing to go the extra mile:

1. Obtained and used USCIS Adjudicator contact information (phone number and/or email addresses) for officers handling my client’s case to get an approval;
2. Obtained and used USCIS email to get movement on a case that was pending for two years;
3. Obtained and used USCIS Supervisor emails to obtain clarification on how to proceed with a case that had a complicated history;
4. Obtained and used USCIS District Director’s email and phone to “negotiate a deal” for a client with a complicated immigration history;
5. Used email addresses only available to attorneys to make an inquiry and expedite my case;
6. Received an alternative to RFE at an interview for a client who filed his application without an attorney. At an Infopass appointment, I accompanied my client and was able to obtain a decision in 2 weeks for a case that had been pending for over 7 months;
7. Discovered a way to avoid filing a Form I-290B Motion to Reopen or Motion to Reconsider and yet have the USCIS officer review my client’s case;

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8. Built strong rapport with USCIS adjudicators who have always been willing to assist me on new client matters (given my past history of mutual respect);
9. Obtained approvals on filings that did not comply with filing requirements; and
10. Requested and obtained RFE extensions despite stipulated deadlines.

As you can see, attorneys have many options available to assist their client; he or she just has to be willing to do what it takes. In my personal experience, I must see cases through to their end, and am willing to push barriers in the interest of justice (albeit respectfully). Thus far, USCIS has *always* entertained my “humanizing” approach (where I use a client’s specific facts to create a persuasive case) and rendered approvals in cases where the law has not been on my clients’ side.

As I mentioned, for me, my relationship with my client is all about trust. As I explain to my clients, they are investing in my law firm; I have to trust them that they will pay my legal fees and they have to trust me that I will advocate for them both passionately and vigorously. When my parents were in deportation proceedings, they were willing to pay whatever it took to get their green cards; and they did pay an attorney thousands of dollars. But in the end it was worth it.

Contact my office today at (301) 529-1912 to find out how I can help you.

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