

PREFACE

They say not all heroes wear capes. This is true. Trial lawyers wear suits. They suit up for battle, and they do it with full knowledge that the fight ahead will often be hard. They know the days will be long and the work demanding. They do it anyhow. This is because trial lawyers know that due process requires them to speak for the voiceless, rise for the fearful, and never stop fighting for due process. The courtroom is their battlefield. The law is their sword. And justice, well, that is what it is all about. So, suit up, my fellow colleagues, because never has there been a more pressing time for you to join the fight.

With the rule of law in jeopardy and due process under a full-throated attack, you are the warrior the removal defense bar needs now more than ever. To say the times are unprecedented would be an oversimplification. Immigrants in removal proceedings currently face hurdles never seen before. With a constant barrage of new BIA cases and shifting enforcement priorities, removal defense attorneys must stay vigilant and agile. This is because now more than ever, the ability to meet the moment means being able to pivot strategies, arguments, and tactics. This is where this *Toolbox* can help you have an advantage.

In putting together *AILA's Removal Litigation Toolbox*, we reached out to some of the best removal defense trial lawyers in the country. We did this to arm attorneys with the tools they need to be able to get up and go on a moment's notice. With time being in critical need these days, this *Toolbox* provides an essential place to start that does not require them to forge every weapon in their arsenal, but rather, gives them a strong head start so that they can get in the fight as quickly as they need. Still, like every effective tool, to make it truly personalized to specific cases and circumstances, diligence must be shown to ensure that what is being filed is up to date and current in the law.

Know that you have what it takes to meet the challenges we now face. Know that together we can make sure that the rights we hold so dear remain intact. The time is now. The moment is here. And you are ready.

Go. Fight. Win.

Rekha Sharma-Crawford

Editor-In-Chief

CAVEAT

The sample materials in *AILA's Removal Litigation Toolbox* are just that—examples. They are presented here for illustrative purposes only. You should not submit any sample to a court verbatim. Read each document and adapt it to meet the facts, law, jurisdiction, and court requirements of your own case. And don't forget that law and procedure can change quickly, so keep up with developments and update accordingly.