USING THE WEB TO PRACTICE

IMMIGRATION LAW

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Preface

This paper is an update of the paper included in the 2002 UT Immigration Conference materials. If you have last years paper, throw it away. Over half the URL's have changed in just one year.

Introduction

In 1978 I was a law clerk in the Law Offices of Wallace Heitman, now retired. He was one of the first Certified Specialists in Immigration and Nationality Law in Texas. One of the assignments he gave me was to put together a "Law Clerk's Manual" for Immigration Law. The first part of that manual dealt with what was to be checked on a regular basis to see to it that we had the most up to date information.

Many prominent individuals in our field, including Steve Ladik and Judge Glenn McPhaul, had the joy of laboriously turning the pages of the Federal Register, F.Supp., F2d, the United States Code, Congressional and Administrative News (USCCAN), and many other publications to discover what was new. There was basically one service available in those days, *Interpreter Releases,* and it was slow to arrive in Dallas. Mr. Heitman wanted to have the most recent items on his desk, and it was up to the law clerk to give it to him.

That Law Clerk's Manual is still valid today. The difference is that we do not have to run off to a law library and turn pages. Now we can point and click.

Below I take you through what I do every day to keep up in this field. I do not recommend that you do all of the pointing and clicking personally. If your firm has one, a law clerk, or even a receptionist, can be trained to check the various sources and print or forward to you electronically what you would like to see and read.

This presentation does not cover everything that is available on the web. My co-presenter, Carl Shusterman, will have the honor of attempting to do that.

Daily Review

Bright and early every morning I download my e-mails and start to check key sites on the web. Some of the e-mails inform me of new postings on the web, including new Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) decisions, new GAO Reports, newly published 5th Circuit Opinions and even that particular day's contents of the Federal Register. More below on how to receive such e-mails.

To give you an idea of what the sites look like, I have included a printout of a page of each site I discuss as an appendix to these materials.

One of the first sites to check is the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) (Appendix 1) http://www.aila.org/. If you are not a member, I encourage you to join, as only members can use this research tool.

Title search: Using the Web to Practice Immigration Law

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