

# Avram Morell

Partner



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Partner Avram Morell is a member of Pryor Cashman's Immigration Group and is one of the premier attorneys in his field.

Regularly recognized by *Chambers USA*, *Chambers Global*, *The Legal 500*, *Best Lawyers*, and other leading legal rankings guides, Avi brings a deep knowledge of immigration and nationality law to his practice. He represents the U.S. and foreign-based companies and organizations, entrepreneurs and investors doing business in the U.S., as well as their employees and family members.

Avi is widely known in the corporate world for his ability to navigate particularly complex business immigration issues, with *Chambers USA 2021* describing him as "*the first port of call for many clients...including household-name insurance companies and financial institutions.*" He understands the high level of scrutiny companies face with respect to immigrant workers and advises on matters relating to regulatory compliance, internal policies and training, and recordkeeping procedures. Avi frequently represents businesses and individuals before U.S. government agencies such as the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of State, and the Department of Labor.

Many of Avi's clients come from the financial services sector, including the U.S. and multinational banks, insurance companies, securities brokers/dealers, and private equity firms. He also represents designers and marketers of luxury fashion products and retail goods, hospitals, pharmaceutical companies, research institutes, and entertainment companies.

Avi advises on a wide variety of immigration matters that are essential to clients, including:

- Temporary visas and applications for permanent residence
- Foreign talent recruiting and retention
- I-9 procedures and audits
- Regulatory compliance
- Immigration-related discrimination avoidance
- Immigration policy development
- Global mobility guidelines/processes development
- Workplace investigations

## Advising C-Suite Executives

Large U.S. corporations that require immigration counsel related to hiring and transferring their most senior executives rely on Avi's counsel. Companies, institutions, and professional associations consult with him on legal interpretations of current and proposed legislation to advance their immigration-related lobbying efforts. In

addition, Avi provides proactive guidance to boards of directors and top management regarding the far-reaching immigration implications of workforce changes that often accompany mergers, acquisitions, spinoffs, international expansions, and changes in corporate leadership.

## Industry Recognition

A regular lecturer on immigration law, Avi serves on the American Immigration Lawyers Association's (AILA) National Verification and Worksite Enforcement Liaison Committee. The Committee is responsible for liaising, on behalf of the AILA's 14,000 member lawyers, with the Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security on the government's policy and practice regarding employers' obligations to verify the work eligibility of employees and avoid immigration-related discrimination. He has also served on AILA's Liaison Committee to the Department of State, as well as two select committees that liaise with the New York City headquarters of United States Citizenship and Immigration Services and Customs and Border Protection.

## Services

- Immigration
- Financial Institutions
- International

## Education

- Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, Yeshiva University (J.D., 1993)
- Yeshiva University (B.A., *cum laude*, 1989)

## Recognition

- Named a top attorney in Immigration law by *Chambers Global* (2014, 2016-26) and *Chambers USA* (2007-25)
- Named a leading attorney in Immigration law by *Best Lawyers in America* (2015-26)
- Named to the *Lawdragon* 100 Leading Immigration Lawyers list (2024-25)
- Named to the *Super Lawyers – New York Metro* list in Immigration law (2013-24)
- Recognized by *Who's Who Legal*, now *Lexology Index*, for Immigration (2025), Corporate Immigration (2016, 2022), and Thought Leaders for Corporate Immigration (2023-24)
- Recognized as a top attorney in Immigration law by *The Legal 500 US* (2012-25)
- Named an Immigration Trailblazer by *National Law Journal* (2020)

## Admissions

- New York, 1994
- New Jersey, 1993

## Professional Affiliations

- American Immigration Lawyers Association, National Verification and Worksite Enforcement Liaison Committee, National Department of State Liaison Committee
- American Immigration Lawyers Association, New York Liaison Committee to U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Former Co-Chair
- American Immigration Lawyers Association, Liaison Committee to the New York City District Office of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Former Co-Chair
- *Law360* Immigration Editorial Advisory Board, Member
- NYU Moot Court, National Immigration Law Competition, Judge
- Practising Law Institute (PLI), Faculty
- New Jersey Institute for Continuing Legal Education, Faculty

## Languages

- Hebrew

## Academic Achievements

- Avi is a graduate of the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law where he was a Samuel Belkin Scholar. While in law school, he was a summer law clerk to Judge Karla Moskowitz of the New York Supreme Court.

## Publications

April 20, 2026

**Form I-9 Compliance Alert: Common Errors Now Carry Greater Risk**

March 16, 2026

**Delays in Visa Processing in Several Countries Due to Conflict in Middle East**

February 10, 2026

**Morell Co-Authors PLI Article on Key Concepts in Nonimmigrant Visa Practice**

*Practising Law Institute*

January 22, 2026

**Pause on Issuance of Immigrant Visas (i.e., Permanent Residence or “Green cards”) for Nationals of 75 Countries Goes Into Effect January 21, 2026**

January 20, 2026

**U.S. Department of State Expands List of Countries Subject to Visa Bonds for B1/B2 Visas**

January 15, 2026

**Preparing for the New H-1B Cap Lottery Based on Wage-Level Selections**

January 5, 2026

**Trump Administration Pauses Diversity Visa Program**

December 18, 2025

**Trump Administration Expands Travel Restrictions to Twenty Additional Countries**

December 9, 2025

**U.S. Department of State to Expand Social Media Vetting for H-1B Visa Applicants and Dependents**

December 4, 2025

**USCIS Pauses Immigration Benefits Requests for Individuals from Designated High-Risk Countries**

November 14, 2025

**Planning for International Holiday Travel: Guidance for Foreign Nationals, Green Card Holders, and U.S. Citizens**

October 31, 2025

**Department of Homeland Security Ends Automatic Extension of Employment Authorization Documents (EADs), with Limited Exceptions**

October 21, 2025

**Updates Regarding Presidential Proclamation Impacting H-1B Workers: Latest USCIS Guidance**

October 8, 2025

**USCIS Changes Naturalization Civics Test, Reverts to Prior Question Bank**

October 1, 2025

**Immigration Impacts of the Federal Government Shutdown**

September 26, 2025

**Updates Regarding Presidential Proclamation Impacting H-1B Workers: One Week Later**

September 20, 2025

**Breaking News: USCIS and CBP Provide Clarification on Travel Restrictions for H-1B Workers**

September 9, 2025

**U.S. Department of State Restricts Third-Country Processing of Nonimmigrant Visas**

June 27, 2025

**Morell Quoted in Bloomberg Law on Employer Uncertainty Following TPS and Humanitarian Parole Program Terminations**

*Bloomberg Law*

June 11, 2025

**Social Security Administration Pauses Mailing of SSNs for Immigration-Based Applications**

June 5, 2025

**Trump Administration Announces Travel Ban for 12 Countries, Restrictions for 7 Countries**

May 29, 2025

**International Summer Travel: Key Considerations For Foreign Nationals, Green Card Holders, and U.S. Citizens**

May 22, 2025

**USCIS Updates I-9 Handbook to Reflect Extended Cap-Gap Extension for F-1 Students**

May 15, 2025

**Malta Citizenship by Investment on Pause Due to European Court of Justice Ruling**

April 3, 2025

**How to Prepare for a Fraud Detection and National Security (FDNS) Immigration Workplace Visit**

March 19, 2025

**Tentative List of Countries for Potential Travel Ban and Travel Restrictions**

March 14, 2025

**The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services and Department of Homeland Security to Collect Social Media Identifiers on Immigration Forms**

March 13, 2025

**New DHS Rule Amends Alien Registration Requirements Effective April 11, 2025; Implications for Canadian Nationals**

March 11, 2025

**State Department Ban on Visas for Transgender Athletes: Policy and Implications for Sports in the U.S.**

March 10, 2025

**Preparing for Possible Travel Bans and Consular Closures**

March 6, 2025

**New Zealand Government Updates Its Investor Visa Program**

March 6, 2025

**DOJ Memo Signals Aggressive Immigration Enforcement with Implications for Employers and Noncitizens**

March 5, 2025

**U.S. Department of State Updates Interview Waiver Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Visa Applications at U.S. Consulates and Embassies**

March 4, 2025

**New Immigration Registration Process Imposes Requirements on Child Visa Holders on their 14th Birthday**

February 25, 2025

**New Gender Rules for U.S. Passports**

February 24, 2025

**USCIS Pauses Adjudication on all Immigration Applications for Certain Parolees**

February 14, 2025

**Noncitizens Must Carry Proof of U.S. Immigration Status FAQs for Employers and Employees**

February 7, 2025

**USCIS No Longer Required to Adjudicate Dependent and Principal Applications Together - Considerations for H-4 EAD Holders and Their Employers**

January 31, 2025

**Changes Ahead for PERM/Labor Certification in New Jersey**

January 27, 2025

**Suspension of Visa Issuance at U.S. Embassy in Colombia**

January 24, 2025

**Preparing for the Fiscal Year 2026 H-1B Cap Season**

January 14, 2025

**Morell Quoted in Law360 on Discussions About the H-1B Visa Program**  
*Law360*

January 13, 2025

**Morell Quoted in Financial Times on the Rise in Americans Seeking to Move Abroad Due to 2024 Election Results**  
*Financial Times*

December 11, 2024

**Breaking News: U.S. Department of State Removes Over 30 Countries from the J-1 Exchange Visitor Skills List**

November 7, 2024

**Business Immigration Update: Planning for the Second Trump Administration**

August 28, 2024

**Update: New Parole in Place Program for Spouses and Stepchildren of U.S. Citizens Halted by Federal Court**  
*By Praveena Nallainathan and Avram Morell*

February 5, 2024

**Increased USCIS Filing Fees Go Into Effect April 1, 2024**

February 1, 2024

**FY2025 H-1B Lottery Registration Opens March 6, 2024**

January 16, 2024

**Domestic Visa Renewal Pilot Program to Launch in January 2024**

December 6, 2023

**Morell Outlines TPS Employment Authorization Process**

*ALIA*

October 20, 2023

**October 2023 Immigration Updates**

July 17, 2023

**Important Immigration Compliance Updates and International Travel Reminders for Foreign Nationals**

May 8, 2023

**Important I-9 Updates for May 2023**

February 21, 2023

**Morell Discusses Domestic Visa Renewal Program**

*SHRM*

December 9, 2022

**Morell Comments on Stakes for Laid-Off H-1B Visa Holders**

*Law360*

December 5, 2022

**Morell Discusses H-1B Visa Issues in Tech Layoffs**

*SHRM*

October 14, 2022

**Yet Again, DHS Extends I-9 Flexibilities Related to COVID-19; Current I-9 Form Version**

August 24, 2022

**Morell Comments on Remote I-9 Verifications**

*SHRM*

August 23, 2022

**USCIS Reaches FY2023 H-1B Cap**

April 13, 2022

**I-94 Records Now Serve as Proof of Work Authorization for Certain Nonimmigrant Spouses**

April 11, 2022

**USCIS Implements Risk-Based Approach for Conditional Permanent Resident Interviews**

February 10, 2022

**H-1B Lottery Registration Opens March 1**

November 15, 2021

**Historic USCIS Settlement Agreement Reached to Ease Certain H-4 and L-2 Work Permit Processes and USCIS Expands to E Spouses**

October 27, 2021

**White House Advances Safe Resumption of Global Travel During COVID-19**

October 18, 2021

**Biden Administration to Lift COVID-19 Travel Bans for Fully Vaccinated Foreign Nationals**

July 7, 2021

**Consular National Interest Exceptions to the COVID-19 Travel Ban to Remain Valid for 12 Months and for Multiple Entries**

**U.S. Imposes Ban On Travelers From India**

April 2, 2021

**Expiration of Presidential Proclamation Banning Certain H-1B, H-2B, J-1, and L-1 Nonimmigrant Applicants**

March 4, 2021

**State Department Rescinds Travel Ban Exceptions for Many Travelers from the European Schengen Area, UK, and Ireland**

February 2021

**Labor Certification**

*Published in: Practising Law Institute's Litigation and Administrative Practice Course Handbook Series: "Basic Immigration Law 2021: Business, Family, Naturalization and Related Areas."*

February 2021

**Overview of Key Concepts in Nonimmigrant Visa Practice: December 2020**

*Published in: Practising Law Institute's Litigation and Administrative Practice Course Handbook Series: "Basic Immigration Law 2021: Business, Family, Naturalization and Related Areas."*

January 15, 2021

**6 Priorities For Employment-Based Immigration Reform**

*Published in Law360*

June 23, 2020

**Trump Issues Executive Order Suspending New Work Visas for Several Employment-based Categories Through End of 2020**

May 18, 2020

**ICE Extends Flexibility in I-9 Compliance Requirements in Response to COVID-19**

April 23, 2020

**The Six Key Takeaways from the President's Executive Order on Immigration**

March 31, 2020

**USCIS Announces Temporary Suspension of Premium Processing for All I-129 and I-140 Petitions**

March 30, 2020

**DHS Issues Special Guidance Regarding Requirements Associated With Form I-9**

March 18, 2020

**Update to Coronavirus Impact on Global Mobility**

December 10, 2019

**H-1B Cap – Electronic Registration Process**

November 25, 2019

**Changes to U.S. Visa Validity for French Citizens**

November 19, 2019

**Plan Early for International Holiday Travel**

November 7, 2019

**Premium Processing Fee to Increase on December 2**

August 28, 2019

**Form I-9 Valid Beyond Current August 31, 2019 Expiry Date**

March 14, 2019

**USCIS Implements Biometrics and Additional Requirements for Form to Extend/Change Status**

March 13, 2019

**Premium Processing Now Available for H-1B Petitions**

January 31, 2019

**Department of Homeland Security Announces Final Rule Amending Regulations for H-1B Cap**

December 7, 2018

**Plan Early for International Holiday Travel**

December 3, 2018

**Department of Homeland Security Announces Proposal for H-1B Cap Pre-Registration System**

October 22, 2018

**Proposed Pre-Registration Rule for H-1B Cap Lottery**

August 30, 2018

**USCIS Extends and Expands Suspension of Premium Processing for H-1B Petitions**

April 13, 2018

**USCIS Announces Number of H-1B Petitions Filed for Fiscal Year 2019 Cap**

March 21, 2018

**Premium Processing Suspended for H-1B Cap Cases**

November 29, 2017

**Foreign Nationals Advised to Plan Early for International Holiday Travel**

November 7, 2017

**I-9 Scam Alert – USCIS Does Not Request Forms I-9 Via E-mail**

October 6, 2017

**President Trump Issues Indefinite Travel Ban: What Employers and Foreign Nationals Need to Know**

October 5, 2017

**Premium Processing Reinstated for All H-1B Petitions**

August 30, 2017

**In-Person Interviews To Be Required for Employment-Based Green Card Applications**

July 17, 2017

**Newly-Released I-9 Form Will Be Mandatory Come September**

June 29, 2017

**SCOTUS Permits Continued Travel for Nationals of “Travel Ban” Countries with U.S. Ties**

June 22, 2017

**U.S. Department of State Issues New Supplemental Visa Form**

March 6, 2017

**Premium Processing Suspended on All H-1B Petitions**

February 16, 2017

**I-9 Compliance Guidance Updated by USCIS**

February 10, 2017

**Ninth Circuit Rules Against President Trump's Travel Ban**

February 6, 2017

**U.S. District Court Suspends President Trump's Executive Order on Immigration**

January 31, 2017

**Who Is Covered by Trump's Executive Order Banning Entry into the United States**

November 18, 2016

**New "Smart" I-9 Form Released By USCIS**

November 15, 2016

**Now What? The Potential Impact of the U.S. Election on Business Immigration**

November 2, 2016

**USCIS Immigration Filing Fees Set to Increase on December 23, 2016**

August 4, 2016

**Deadline Approaching to Apply for 7 Month Extension of STEM OPT**

July 22, 2016

**EB-1 & EB-2 Retrogression in the August 2016 Visa Bulletin**

July 21, 2016

**Monetary Penalties For Immigration Violations to Increase - 3 Ways Employers Can Prepare**

June 16, 2016

**Long Wait For Visa Appointments in India**

March 16, 2016

**Department of Homeland Security Expands STEM OPT Program, Beginning May 10, 2016**

January 27, 2016

**U.S. Government Implements Limitations on Visa Waiver Program**

December 17, 2015

**Morell Authors Article About Requirements of PERM Applications**

December 8, 2015

**Plan Early for International Holiday Travel**

September 11, 2015

**USCIS and Department of State Announce New Procedures for Determining Immigrant Visa Availability and Eligibility to File for Adjustment of Status**

July 13, 2015

**USCIS Begins Premium Processing H-1B Extensions Today**

June 19, 2015

**Technical Problems at State Department Delay Issuance of Visas Around the World Into Foreseeable Future**

May 20, 2015

**USCIS Temporarily Suspends Premium Processing of H-1B Extensions**

April 14, 2015

**USCIS Announces Record Number of H-1B Petitions Filed for 2015 Cap**

February 24, 2015

**H-4 EAD Applications to be Accepted on May 26**

December 11, 2014

**President Obama's Immigration Initiatives: 5 Key Changes For Employers**

November 21, 2014

**President Obama's Executive Order on Immigration - What Does This Mean For Employers?**

November 20, 2014

**Plan Now for International Holiday Travel**

March 5, 2014

**Reminder to Clients to Prepare H-1B Petitions**

October 14, 2013

**Administrative Judges Push Back on Employer Sanctions for I-9 Violations**

October 4, 2013

**Exploring the Fine Print: A Closer Look at Some Lesser-Known Provisions of the Senate's Immigration Bill**