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Maria Isabel Casablanca & Gloria Roa Bodin's Immigration Law for Paralegals

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Casablanca, Maria Isabel, and Gloria Roa Bodin. *Immigration Law for Paralegals*. Durham, N.C.: Carolina Academic Press, 2005. 264p. \$45; \$39 student price.

Reviewed by Elizabeth Adelman

¶29 Reading *Immigration Law for Paralegals* transported me back to my law school immigration class and the struggle to navigate the Immigration and Naturalization Act⁷ in order to understand the assigned cases. Where was this fabulous book when I needed it? Any new law student or new paralegal would love this handy resource. In the classroom and the law office, this book provides information essential for understanding and completing work assignments.

¶30 The material is presented in a simple format. Each chapter has a purpose that is clearly set forth in the table of contents; the purpose is so clear that the short index is unnecessary. Chapter 1 describes a consultation with an immigration-related client

and the requisite skills for a successful meeting, such as interview skills, procedures for opening files and file organization, and time management. Chapters 2 through 7 explain the different types of visas available. Chapters 8 and 9 deal with asylum standards and appeals before the Administrative Appeals Office, immigration judges, and the Board of Immigration Appeals. Chapter 10 outlines the general requirements for citizenship in the United States, and chapter 11 focuses on immigration issues in the post-9/11 era.

¶31 Each chapter includes citations to applicable laws and regulations, a list of requirements such as documents and forms, conditions of admission spelled out in layperson's terminology, and an appendix with sample forms. *Immigration Law for Paralegals* also includes a glossary and acronyms section. A CD-ROM accompanying the text includes PDF templates of the forms mentioned in each chapter for easy reference and printing. In addition to blank forms, the authors include completed sample forms, in both the CD-ROM and the appendix section of each chapter, which allow legal assistants to see typical answers to basic questions on the form.

¶32 In the introduction, paralegals and other readers are strongly urged to use the information contained in the book under the supervision of an attorney to avoid the unauthorized practice of law. The absence of any reference to the currentness of the information contained in the text, or any guidelines for updating legal information, is troubling to this librarian. The book does not address at all how readers can make sure that they have the most up-to-date information and forms.

¶33 Compared to other books of the same type, this title is fairly current, provides the simplest format, and boasts printable forms on CD-ROM. In addition, the authors, immigration lawyers practicing in Miami, Florida, meet their goal of simplifying the new forms and procedures required by the Homeland Security Act.⁸ Although directed to the paralegal audience, *Immigration Law for Paralegals* is also recommended to law firm libraries that handle immigration cases and to academic and public law libraries that actively collect resources in demand by pro se patrons. When used as a supplement to immigration law casebooks, this resource also provides law students with an understanding of procedural processes that accompany the theoretical issues presented in immigration law courses.

8. Pub. L. No. 107-296, 116 Stat. 2135 (2002).