

Reaz Jafri

OF COUNSEL | NEW YORK



REAZ.JAFRI@WITHERSWORLDWIDE.COM



+1 212 848 9853

SECRETARY NICOLE MELLA



NICOLE.MELLA@WITHERSWORLDWIDE.COM



+1 646 428 8670



Reaz is of counsel in the private client and tax team and focuses on immigration.

With more than 25 years of experience advising American and multi-national companies, multi-facility healthcare providers, research foundations, foreign investors, entrepreneurs and ultra-high net worth individuals on all aspects of immigration and nationality law, Reaz has developed a sterling reputation as a knowledgeable, creative and solution-oriented attorney who fully understands the commercial benefit of predictable, efficient immigration counsel as well as the personal and professional implications of immigration upon the lives of executives, investors, business owners, professionals and their families.

Reaz concentrates on business, investment and employment cases and has successfully represented thousands of clients on all types of investor, employment and family-based nonimmigrant visas and immigrant visas or 'green cards', including EB-5. He is well versed on all aspects of US expatriation and is deeply knowledgeable about the various citizenship and residence by investment programs, having personally visited and filed cases in nearly all of these jurisdictions.

A trusted advisor to other law firms, Reaz serves as immigration counsel to companies and law firms on M&A transactions, advises clients on intergovernmental matters, represents foreign companies and investors in establishing US offices, including family offices, and counsels US companies in establishing foreign operations.

He was named an 'Immigration Trailblazer' by the National Law Journal in 2018, which recognized a small group of individuals who have "moved the needle in facilitating the ever-changing immigration policies" and are "making great strides in the fight for justice."

Track record

'Immigration Trailblazer'

Named 'Immigration Trailblazer' by *The National Law Journal* in 2018.

Transfer of US employees to China

Assisted in the transfer of US employees to China for a global entertainment conglomerate.

Immigration program

Consolidated and took lead in managing immigration program for one of America's largest healthcare systems.

Employment visas and green cards

Routinely represents individuals of extraordinary ability in business, sciences and art in obtaining employment visas and green cards.

Renouncing citizens

Advocated on behalf of US citizenship renouncing persons and convinced US Department of State to amend the Foreign Affairs Manual to allow renouncing citizens to retain their US passports while waiting for Department of State to issue the Certificate of Loss Nationality, and thereby permit these persons to continue to be able to travel to the US.

Talks

- '[Introduction to US, UK and Canadian Private Client Issues in the Middle East](#),' Informa Connect's Cross-Border Planning Conference - October 26, 2023, co-presenter
- '[Global Residency and Citizenship Strategies for UHNW Clients](#),' The 13th Annual STEP International Tax & Estate Planning Forum - May 7, 2021, co-presenter
- '[Q&A with Immigration Employment Lawyer](#),' Stanford Graduate Business School virtual presentation - February 21, 2021, presenter
- '[International Tax & Planning](#),' STEP San Francisco - December 17, 2020, presenter
- '[Tax Compliance Matters](#),' ALI-CLE International Trust and Estate Planning 2020 Webcast - December 9, 2020, co-presenter
- '[Immigration and Second Passports: A conversation on how the pandemics changed one's freedom to come and go](#),' webinar with Turim MFO - October 28, 2020, panelist
- '[US Immigration: Latest updates and how it affects your plans](#),' Webinar with Proxy Financial and Withersworldwide - July 30, 2020

- *'COVID-19 Update: Economic outlook and the impact of changing travel restrictions and immigration policies.'* Webinar with Goldman Sachs and Withersworldwide - May 21, 2020
- *'Withers talks: art | Art: Are you globally mobile?'*, Withers podcast - September 19, 2019, speaker
- *'Risk Management & Immigration Strategies for the UHNW Families'*, International Tax Conference (Miami), January 10, 2019
- *'The intelligent investor's guide to the US'*, Investment Immigration Summit MENA (Dubai), February 25, 2018
- *'Pod. Country. Notre Dame. Episode 1: DACA & Immigration'*, University of Notre Dame podcast - February 3, 2018
- *'Becoming resident in the Cayman Islands, elsewhere in the Caribbean and the USA'*, STEP Cayman Conference - January 30, 2018
- *'Emerging Numbers of US Investment Immigration with Mainland Chinese Applicants Being the Majority'*, Phoenix TV (Chinese television broadcast) - October 2015, interview
- *Citizenship by Investment & International Residence* - October 2015
- *22nd World Offshore Convention*, Havana, Cuba - October 2015
- *'We're all in this together - why are we not working together?'*, Legal Week Private Client Forum Americas 2015, Papagayo, Costa Rica - February 2015
- *'Assessing Asian HNW migration to the US'*, Hubbis.com - June 2013. [Click here to watch the Hubbis interview](#)
- *'The future of offshore financial centers'*, Hubbis.com - June 2013. [Click here to watch the Hubbis interview](#)
- *'US Immigration Law Update'*, Hong Kong - June 2013
- *'Wealth Planning Strategies: What You Need to Know'*, Shanghai - May 2013
- *'Wealth Planning Strategies: What You Need to Know'*, Beijing - May 2013
- *'Not Your Average Employee: Hiring, Employing and Firing Domestic Workers'*, Greenwich Connecticut - May 2013
- *'Global Citizens Need Global Solutions - US/UK Immigration, Real Estates and Tax Issues'*, __ Withersworldwide, Singapore - January 2013
- *'Global Citizens Need Global Solutions - US/UK Immigration, Real Estates and Tax Issues'*, __ Withersworldwide, Hong Kong - January 2013
- *'Destination America: Navigating Opportunities'*, __ Mazars conference for high-net worth families and Russian-headquartered multinational companies, Moscow, Russia - April 2012
- *'International Medical Graduates: Immigration Options'*, American Psychiatrists Association, New York, New York - March 1999
- *'International Medical Graduates: Immigration Options'*, State University of New York Health Science Center at Brooklyn, Brooklyn, New York - January 1999
- *'International Medical Graduates & Immigration Law'*, Association of Program Directors in Internal Medicine, New York Chapter, New York Hospital, Queens, New York - September 1996
- *'Immigration Law & Foreign Medical Graduates'*, __ Nassau University Medical Center, Hempstead, New York - August 1994

External publications

'Inside Dominica, The Tiny Caribbean Island Offering "Golden Passports" To Billionaires And Oligarchs', Forbes - October 11, 2023, quoted

'Grenada's 'golden passport' comes with tax benefits and makes travel easier — but only if you invest \$150,000 in the country first', Business Insider - December 8, 2022, quoted

'The Diaspora Of The Wealthy', IFC Review - June 15, 2022, authored

'Unions Back Universities' Lawsuit Against ICE Visa Rule (1)', Bloomberg Law - July 13, 2020, quoted

'Laid-Off H-1B Visa Holders Face Painful Predicament', San Francisco Chronicle - July 12, 2020, quoted

'F-1 and M-1 Student alert', Withers Insight - July 7, 2020, co-author

'Trump blames the latest freeze on immigrant work visas on the pandemic. Immigration attorneys say the ban is just another step towards long-term, restrictive policies.' Business Insider - June 24, 2020, quoted

'Amazon, Google, Twitter, and other tech companies are speaking out against Trump's freeze on immigrant work visas (AMZN, TWTR, GOOG, GOOGL).' Business Insider - June 23, 2020, quoted

'Immigration lessons from coronavirus crisis and potential next steps.' Withers Insight - May 13, 2020, co-author

'Reaz Jafri comments on President Trump's order temporarily barring green card seekers and their families from entering the U.S.' Withers Insight - April 23, 2020, featured and quoted

'Spouses, Health Care Workers Exempt From Green Card Ban.' Law360 - April 22, 2020 quoted

'Iranian Investors No Longer Eligible For US Travel On E Visas.' Law360 - January 22, 2020, quoted

'EB-5 In 2020: Managing The 'Stun Gun' That Just Hit The Investment Program.' Bisnow - January 22, 2020, quoted

'Expanded Travel Ban Means New Headaches For Foreign Biz.' Law360 - January 22, 2020, quoted

'When U.S. Citizenship Starts Looking Like a Bad Deal.' The New York Times - December 6, 2019, quoted

'Hong Kong Unrest Has High Net Worth Seeking Safer Havens Globally.' Manion Global - September 3, 2019, quoted

'If you owe the IRS back taxes, you may lose your passport.' CNBC.com - August 14, 2019, quoted

'IRS can now revoke U.S. passports over back taxes.' United Press International - August 14, 2019, quoted

'Changes to U.S's EB-5 Program Could Shift Money to Rural Areas.' Mansion Global and Barron's - July 24, 2019, quoted

'Why the Wealthy Are Mobile.' Private Wealth, June 2019, author

'No consensus on harm to EB-5 program posed by revised regulation.' Bisnow - April 8, 2019, quoted

'Trump said he wanted more 'highly skilled' immigrants to come to the US. But skilled, educated foreign workers are leaving the US dejected, saying Trump doomed their American dreams - leaving businesses in the lurch.' Business Insider - March 2, 2019, quoted

'What Money Can Buy Now: Global Entree.' Town and Country - February 2019, quoted

'Navigating Complex US Immigration Laws: US Visas & Taxation.' ICLG Private Client 2019 - January 15, 2019, co-author

'Post-Choksi, wealthy Indians rush to buy new passport.' The Times of India - December 9, 2018, quoted

'The New York Wheel's Demise Marks One Of The Largest EB-5 Failures Ever.' The Real Deal - October 23, 2018, quoted

'DACA Recipients Should Hold The Applause On Recent Ruling.' Law360 - September 5, 2018, quoted

'Exclusive: How This Startup is Trying to Automate Work Visa Applications for People with "Extraordinary Ability".' San Francisco Business Times - June 26, 2018, quoted

'After Trump's Travel Ban Win, a New Fight Over Child Separations.' Bloomberg - June 26, 2018, quoted

'What The Rich And Super-Rich Consider When Deciding On Citizenships And Residencies.' Forbes - April 12, 2018, quoted

'Which Foreign Countries will Grant me Citizenship if I Invest?' Financial Times - February 2018, quoted

'The Three Biggest Mistakes the U.S. Wealthy Make When Moving Abroad.' Forbes - February 13, 2018, quoted

'Navigating Complex US Immigration Laws: US Visas & Taxation.' The International Comparative Legal Guide to Private Client - 2018 Edition, co-author

'Federal Judge Blocks Trump's Third Travel Ban.' Bloomberg - October 17, 2017

'Muslim nations targeted by Trump's travel ban see steep visa drop.' Politico - September 28, 2017, quoted

'DACA invited immigrants to come out of the shadows - now Dreamers fear they're more vulnerable than ever.' Business Insider - 6 September, 2017, quoted

'The Trump administration is ending DACA, Jeff Sessions announces.' Business Insider - 5 September, 2017, quoted

'Challenging Trump's dreamers decision will be an uphill battle.' Bloomberg - 5 September, 2017, quoted

'Trump immigration ban meets law of unintended consequences.' Bloomberg - 1 July, 2017, quoted

'The next step for business visas(Chinese)',_ ComNews - 4 July, 2017, quoted

'Trump immigration ban meets law of unintended consequences',_ Bloomberg - 1 July, 2017, quoted

'Getting engaged won't qualify you for a trump travel ban exemption,' Bloomberg - 29 June, 2017, quoted

'The Supreme Court's decision on Trump's travel ban raises more questions than answers,' Business Insider - 28 June, 2017, quoted

'Why Trump and Modi talked tech visas,' POLITICO - 26 June, 2017, quoted

'Supreme Court decision shifts momentum in Trump travel ban case,' Fox News - 26 June, 2017, quoted

'Supreme Court ruling on Trump's bid to reinstate travel ban,' Bloomberg Live Blog - 26 June, 2017, quoted

'For some U.S. visitors, 'extreme vetting' is here,' San Francisco Chronicle - 5 June, 2017, quoted

'Extreme vetting' immigration form causes delays, confusion,' Bloomberg Law Daily Labor Report - 5 June, 2017, quoted

'New visa questionnaire raises concerns of business immigration lawyers,' Daily Journal - 5 June, 2017, quoted

'High court will likely mull these 4th circ. travel ban issues,' Law360 - 1 June, 2017, quoted

'U.S. now can ask travelers for Facebook, Twitter handles,' USA Today, 5 On Your Side and Phys.org - 1 June, 2017, quoted

'Trump travel ban on shaky ground,' The Hill - 28 May, 2017, quoted

'US L1 visa favored by Chinese investors as EB5 immigrant investor green card faces Trump changes,' _workpermit.com - 14 May, 2017, quoted

'America's immigrant visas: What future holds for Chinese investors,' South China Morning Post - 26 April, 2017, quoted

'Trump's H-1B executive order is PR, not policy,' InfoWorld - 21 April, 2017, quoted

'How America has built a wall in just three months', National - 9 April, 2017, quoted

'Changes to H-1B visa policy could have a chilling effect on the tech industry,' LA Times - 4 April, 2017, quoted

'Why a second passport is the latest must-have of the world's wealthiest', - 30 March, 2017, quoted

'Tired of waitlists and uncertainty, some Chinese favor U.S. visa over green card,' Forbes - 28 March, 2017, quoted

'Where millionaires are moving (and why)', Viral News - 20 March, 2017, quoted

'Trump's words may haunt him as travel ban appeal promised,' Bloomberg - 16 March, 2017, quoted

'Roter teppich für reiche,' FrankfurterRundschau - 13 March, 2017 (German only), quoted

'"Honor killings" nod in travel ban further inflames critics,' Bloomberg - 7 March, 2017, quoted

'Douglas Elliman and Knight Frank launch the 2017 edition of The Wealth Report at The New York Public Library,' _Citybizlist - 3 March, 2017, quoted

'Attention, brokers: Here's what's happening with the world's ultra-wealthy,'_ The Real Deal - 2 March 2017, quoted

'Millionaires in record numbers head to Australia',_ Live Trading News - 1 March 2017, quoted

'Millionaires leave France, China in record numbers, head down under',_ Newsmax - 1 March 2017, quoted

'"We will win": Trump considers writing 'brand new' immigration order',_ South China Morning Post - 11 February 2017, quoted

'US President Donald Trump suggests new immigration order to come next week,'_ International Business Times - 11 February 2017, quoted

'Republican governor: Serious constitutional concerns about deploying the National Guard for immigration enforcement,' Business Insider - 17 February 2017, quoted

'These economic migrants have absolutely no problem making it across borders',_ Fortune - 27 February 2017, quoted

'Australia is the world's top destination for millionaire migrants',_ Australia Financial Review - 26 February 2017, quoted

'Dokąd uciekają miliony dolarów',_ RP - 26 February 2017 (Polish only), quoted

'For millionaire immigrants, a global welcome mat', NY Times - 25 February 2017, quoted

'Trump considers writing 'brand new' immigration order', over 20 publications, quoted including The Washington Post - 10 February 2017

'Surprising if SCOTUS hears travel ban case: Expert', CNBC / NASDAQ / MSN - 9 February 2017 (TV interview), quoted

'U.S. investment visa may jump to \$1.35 million', Barron's - 7 February 2017, quoted

'Trump's most forceful executive order on immigration isn't the immigration ban', Business Insider / Yahoo Finance / Nigeria Today - 4 February 2017, quoted

'If US travel ban crushes Silicon Valley, can China and Singapore pick up the pieces?', South China Morning Post - 3 February 2017, quoted

'Interview with immigration attorney Reaz Jafri on Trump's new executive order', The University Network - 1 February 2017

'Veto de viajes deja en el aire a empresas y emprendedores', Eli Diario de El Paso - 1 February 2017 (Spanish only), quoted

'Trump's travel ban leaves global businesses and entrepreneurs hanging', Chicago Tribune - 31 January 2017, quoted

'Trump's travel ban leaves global businesses and entrepreneurs hanging', LA Times - 31 January 2017, quoted

'Yes, the State Department can jump on a problem and fix in record time,' The Washington Post - March 2015, interview

'Renunciation process eased for US passport holders looking to escape FATCA,' eprivateclient.com - March 2015, interview

'Veteran Fairfax Supervisor Gross Faces Challenger in Democratic primary,' asisaeu.com - March 2015, quoted

'Capital Public Law Report: Garner decision delays grand jury reforms; Lynch in Limbo,' capitalnewyork.com - March 2015, interview

'You can check out now,' The Times - March 2015, interview

'Renouncing US Citizens Gets A Bit Easier with Passport Victory; Exodus Grows - Lawyers,' wealthbriefing.com - March 2015, interview

'Give Up Citizenship, Keep Your Passport,' forbes.com - March 2015, quoted

'U.S. Government Changes Citizen Renunciation Passport Policy After Criticism,' wsj.com - March 2015, interview

'Navigating Complex US Immigration Laws: US Visas & Taxation,' The International Comparative Legal Guide to Private Client - 2015 Edition, co-author

'Hong Kong, U.S. Keep Visa Door Ajar,' Barron's Asia - February 12 2015, interview

'Wealth Management: A home away from home,' globalcapital.com - December 15 2014, quoted

'Wealthy Chinese Look Beyond The American Dream,' wealthx.com - November 18, 2014, quoted

'Withers suggests alternatives routes for backlogged Chinese applicants immigrating to the US,' asianprivatebanker.com - November 7, 2014, interview

'US tax law no red light for Chinese green card seekers,' South China Morning Post - September 12, 2013, quoted

'Secrets to Getting the Green Light for US Visa,' South China Morning Post - May 2013

'Immigration Reform: Can Mark Zuckerberg and Friends Deliver,' The Christian Science Monitor - April 2013, quoted

'Why Some Chinese Should Rethink Value of Green Card,' The Wall Street Journal - March 2013, quoted

'Entrepreneurs and Immigration: New Prospects and Challenges in the Land of Opportunities,' Thomson Reuters News & Insight - December 2012

'International Medical Graduates - From Training to Working,' Medical Society of the State of New York, News of New York, Vol. 67, No. 1 - January 2011

'Immigration Law's Opportunities and Landmines,' Long Island Business News - January 2011

Admissions

State of New Jersey, 1991
State of New York, 1992
US District Court Southern District of New York
US District Court Eastern District of New York
US District Court of New Jersey

Education

New York University, B.A.
St John's University School of Law, J.D.

Languages

English
Hindi

Memberships

Swiss American Lawyers Association of New York
American Immigration Lawyers Association
American Bar Association
New York State Bar Association
New York City Bar Association
American College of Healthcare Executives

Key dates

Year joined: 2012
Year became partner: 2014

[View full profile online](#)