



AMERICAN
IMMIGRATION
LAWYERS
ASSOCIATION



February 22, 2022

Subject Line: AILA welcomes the new Canadian Immigration Lawyers Association (CILA)

AILA is pleased to share news with our members of the launch of the Canadian Immigration Lawyers Association (CILA) and to welcome CILA as a peer organization.

Similarly to AILA, CILA was established with a mission to promote justice and fairness in citizenship and immigration law and to advocate for improvements to immigration-related policies and departmental operations through public dialogue, submissions, coalition-building, court interventions, and test litigation.

Among its key priorities, CILA strives to:

- Advocate for marginalized newcomers who are often vulnerable and racialized;
- Advocate for the security and safety of undocumented migrants crossing our respective land borders;
- Advocate for the protection and promotion of competent, ethical, and lawful representation;
- Encourage harmonized testing and travel rules as the pandemic evolves;
- Advocate for policies to address skills shortages in North America and to improve processing so as to support economies on both sides of the border;
- Encourage modernizing the CUSMA/USMCA list of professionals to better reflect current labor markets;
- Establish a charity division to solicit donations and fund research litigation on important matters to immigration lawyers and stakeholders;
- Form coalitions with other immigration, human rights, and refugee lawyer groups in Canada and abroad;
- Leverage technology to catalog, research, organize, and mobilize immigration materials and resources for immigration lawyers;
- Offer mentorship and support to young lawyers as they move through their career in one of the most complex areas of law;
- Provide timely comment and action on breaking citizenship and immigration issues; and
- Strongly support pro bono work.

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AILA supports the founding of this important organization and welcomes its actions to advocate for citizenship, refugee, and immigration issues and professionals working in this area in Canada.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben Johnson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ben Johnson

AILA Executive Director

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