

STEVEN MEURENS

Steven is a Vancouver based Canadian immigration lawyer who advises clients on all Canadian immigration and citizenship issues. He has significant experience representing corporate and individual clients in obtaining visas and permits for many business-related purposes, including, but not limited to, Labour Market Opinions, intercompany transfers, international trade agreements, specialty business visits, and transitioning from temporary to permanent resident under numerous federal economic streams. His corporate clients include businesses engaged in mining, telecommunications, construction, hospitality, and technology start-ups.

In addition to his business immigration practice, Steven has extensive experience in family-based immigration matters. He also has an active practice assisting people who have been denied entry to Canada and to those whom have had visa applications refused. He has appeared before the Immigration and Refugee Board and the Federal Court.

Steven is the Vice-President of the Canadian Bar Association of British Columbia's Immigration Subsection. He is a published columnist, a regular panelist at immigration law conferences, and is the author of a very widely read blog on Canadian immigration law.

Representative Work

- Counsel to several successful Vancouver technology start-ups on all immigration matters, including obtaining work permits for key staff, the effects of mergers & acquisitions, and obtaining bulk Labour Market Opinions for highly skilled and difficult to fill positions.
- Represents several foreign construction and mining companies relocate workers to Canada, often on an expedited basis, to fulfill time-sensitive contracts, as well as obtaining work permits and visitor records for several key executives so that they can pass through Canadian customs with ease.
- Advising numerous religious organizations in transitioning their religious workers to permanent resident status.
- Represented several individuals in successfully overturning visa refusals at Federal Court, including on matters pertaining to whether the applicant met program eligibility, procedural fairness, and national security.
- Successfully assisted several families normalize the status of family members who had been in Canada without status for several years.

Publications/Presentations

- "Introducing Biometrics for Certain Foreign Nationals", October 2013
- "Advanced Labour Market Opinions," Paper and Panelist, "Working Your Way into Canada," Continuing Legal Education of British Columbia, Vancouver, September



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Education / Bar Admissions

- Bar Admission, British Columbia, 2010
- JD, University of Toronto, 2009
- B.A., University of British Columbia, 2006

Professional Involvement

- Member, Law Society of British Columbia
- Member, Canadian Bar Association
- Member, Canadian Bar Association, British Columbia, Immigration Section:
 - Vice-President (2013 – present)
 - Secretary (2011-2013)
 - Chair, BC Provincial Nominee

2013

Sub-Committee (2011 – 2013)

- “Federal Skilled Worker Class,” Presenter, Canadian Association of Professional Immigration Consultants – BC Chapter AGM, Vancouver, September 2013
- “Kenny’s Legacy on Immigration: The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly”, The Canadian Immigrant Magazine, July 2013, August 2013
- “Hiring Foreign Workers Becomes More Difficult”, The Canadian Immigrant Magazine, July 2013
- “Bill C-35 and Other Changes to Immigration and Post-Secondary Institutions,” Capilano College, July 2013
- “Beyond the Post-Graduate Work Permit”, The Canadian Immigrant Magazine, May 2013
- “Federal Skilled Worker Class and Canadian Experience Class,” Paper and Panelist, Canadian Bar Association Immigration Section Annual Conference, Montreal, May 2013
- “Moving to Canada: What Exactly is the New Federal Skilled Trades Program?”, The Canadian Immigrant Magazine, March 2013
- “Sponsorship Bar and Conditional Permanent Residency In Effect”, The Canadian Immigrant Magazine, February 2013
- “The BC PNP,” Moderator, Canadian Bar Association (BC) Immigration Section Annual Conference, Vancouver, February 2013
- “Renewing Your Temporary Resident Visa from Within Canada”, The Canadian Immigrant Magazine, December 2012
- “Compliant Employers of Temporary Foreign Workers Being Rewarded with Accelerated Labour Market Opinions”, The Canadian Immigrant Magazine, October 2012
- “What Applicants Should Look out for In New Immigration Rules”, The Canadian Immigrant Magazine, September 2012
- “Language Tests Coming to Immigration Programs Soon”, The Canadian Immigrant Magazine, June 2012
- “Can you Enter Canada if You Have a Criminal Conviction”, The Canadian Immigrant Magazine, May 2012
- “Know How to Minimize Your Tax Burden”, The Canadian Immigrant Magazine, April 2012
- “The Immigration Appeal Division” Moderator, Canadian Bar Association (BC) Immigration Section Annual Conference, Vancouver, February 2012
- “Understanding New Immigration Application Regulations”, The Canadian Immigrant Magazine, November 2011
- Author, Sponsorship Bars and Conditional Permanent Residency: Coming Soon to the Spousal Sponsorship Program?, UNB Law Journal, VOL. LXII, 2011.
- “CIC brings significant changes to the temporary foreign worker program”, The Canadian Immigrant Magazine, July 2011

Community Events

- City of Vancouver, Mayor’s Working Group on Immigration, Committee Member, Vancouver, 2014

- Former Director of the Vancouver Association of the Survivors of Torture, 2010-2011