



2023 Conference Program

8:00 a.m. – 8:55 a.m.

Breakfast, Check-in, Networking

8:55 a.m.

Welcome and Introduction

Conference Co-chairs:

Sergio R. Karas, Karas Immigration Law Professional Corporation (Toronto)

Douglas L. Goldman, The Towne Law Firm, P.C., Upstate NY Chapter of AILA Chair (Albany)

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

CBP Northern Border Update (US)

Discussion Leader: Zabrina Reich, Phillips Lytle (Buffalo)

Panel Speakers:

Kevin Mann, Chief CBP Officer, Office of Field Operations, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Port of Buffalo, NY

Richard J. Misztal, OFO Deputy National Chaplain, Workforce Care/Resiliency Program

Manager, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Buffalo Field Office, Office of Field Operations

Alexis S. Axelrad, Barst Mukamal & Kleiner LLP (New York)

Olga Prygoda, BCF LLP (Montréal)

Danielle Rizzo, Harris Beach (Buffalo)

10:10 a.m. – 11:10 a.m.

CBSA Update (Canada)

Discussion Leader: Sergio R. Karas, Karas Immigration Law Professional Corporation (Toronto)

Panel Speakers:

Christine Haggart, Chief of Operations, CBSA

Jessica Picken, Manager, CBSA

Lisa Russell, Regional Program Officer, CBSA

11:10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Coffee Break



11:30 a.m. –12:30 p.m.

USMCA and Other Treaty-based Visa Options (US/Canada)

Discussion Leader: TBD

Panel Speakers:

David Garson, Garson Immigration Law (Toronto)

Jessica Jensen, MLT Aikins LLP (Winnipeg)

David Wilks, Hodgson Russ (Rochester)

12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Lunch & Keynote Speaker

Update from AILA National

*Alexis S. Axelrad, Barst Mukamal & Kleiner LLP (New York),
Second Vice President, AILA*

Keynote Speaker

*Elizabeth C. Power, Minister Counselor for Consular Affairs,
U.S. Embassy Ottawa*

2:10 p.m. – 3:10 p.m. (Canada)

All Roads Lead to Canada: Temporary and Permanent Visa Options (Canada)

Discussion Leader: Melissa Babel, Babel Immigration Law (Toronto)

Panel Speakers:

Viviane Albuquerque, Mobilitys Immigration Law Firm (Montreal)

Brenda Wong, Business Immigration Law Group (Toronto)

2:10 p.m. - 3:10 p.m. (US)

Focus on E1/E2 Visa Processing in Toronto (US)

Discussion Leader: TBD

Panel Speakers:

Alexis S. Wolff, NIV Chief, U.S. Consulate General Toronto (Toronto)

Jennifer Behm, Berardi Immigration Law (Buffalo/Toronto)

Elizabeth Buscaglia, Apa, Martin & Buscaglia (Buffalo)

Oliver Branch, Moodys Tax (Toronto)

Sylvia Yong, KPMG Law LLP (Toronto)



3:20 p.m. – 4:20 p.m.

Ethics Roundtable (Canada/US)

Discussion Leader: TBD

Panel Speakers:

Rosanna Berardi, Berardi Immigration Law (Buffalo/Toronto)

Chantal Desloges (Toronto)

Katie James, LawPro (Toronto)

4:30 p.m.

Happy Hour Networking Reception

Coordinator: Rebecca Bentley, Berardi Immigration Law (Buffalo)

CLE & CPD Credits

CLE credit generously sponsored by Phillips Lytle. Attendees may obtain 5 CLE credits. Attendees must complete the validation worksheet and submit following the instructions on the worksheet to obtain proof of credits.

For LSO CPD credit, attendees may obtain 4 hours Substantive and 1 hour of Professionalism credits. We have also received approval from LawPro for the Risk Management Credit discount.

Note: Final schedule subject to change.