

## **BIOGRAPHY:**

Began practicing immigration law in 1993. Founder of Minikon Law, LLC. An experienced immigration attorney and human rights practitioner skilled in immigration defense and representation in removal proceedings and the filing of affirmative applications for asylum, work visas, U visas, waivers, naturalization, and adjustment of status. Provides representation for family and employment-based immigration. Robust appellate practice that includes appeals to the Administrative Appeals Unit, the Board of Immigration Appeals, the Department of Labor, the Board of Alien Labor Certification Appeals, and the Federal courts. A passionate, dedicated, and knowledgeable advocate with a zeal for obtaining positive results for clients.

## **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

Member, American Immigration Lawyers Association  
AILA DC Chapter Liaison to Maryland State Bar Association, 2016 – Present  
Day Coordinator, AILA National Conference 2016  
Member, Host Chapter Events Committee, AILA National Conference 2015  
Coordinator, AILA D.C. Chapter Kurzban Chapter Purchase Program 2016  
Member, Maryland State Bar Association

## **ADMISSIONS**

District of Columbia  
Maryland  
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit  
U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland

## **EDUCATION**

*Juris Doctor*, University of Maryland School of Law  
*Master of Arts in International Affairs, Human Rights & International Politics*, American University  
*Bachelor of Arts in the Administration of Justice, magna cum laude*, Howard University

## **EXPERIENCE**

Minikon Law, LLC, Founder/Managing Attorney, 2014 – Present  
Minikon Law Office, Founder/Managing Attorney, 2006 – 2013  
University of Maryland University College, Asst. Professor of Immigration Law & Legal writing, 2003 - 2012  
Thomson-West, Principal Attorney Editor of *Interpreter Releases*, 2002 - 2005  
Minnesota Legal Services Coalition, Staff Attorney for Immigration, Housing, and Consumer Law, 1999 - 2001  
Law Office of Patricia B. Minikon, founder/Managing Attorney, 1994 – 1999

## **CIVIC AND CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

Maryland State Bar Association, Immigration Section, Maryland Eastern Shore Pro Bono Clinic, 2016  
Board Member, Liberty's Promise 2015 – 2017  
American Immigration Lawyers Association National Conference Pro Bono Clinic, 2015  
Mentor, Liberian Awards 2012 – Present  
University of Maryland School of Law, Immigration Clinic, Expert Witness, July 2008  
Maryland Bar Counsel Mentor, 2007 – 2010  
Coordinator, Liberian Truth and Reconciliation Diaspora Project 2007-2008  
Volunteer Immigration Attorney, Montgomery County Commission for Women Immigration Callback Program  
1993 - 2010  
Legal Advisor on Immigration Issues, Liberian Community Association 1997 – 2010  
Co-chair, Education Committee, Urban Coalition of Minnesota Immigrant and Refugee Policy Coalition 1999 –  
2001  
Volunteer Attorney, Lawyers Committee for Human Rights (Human Rights First), 1994-1996  
Volunteer Attorney, Lutheran Social

## **SELECTED PUBLICATIONS**

- Co-Author, Chapter 8, “Documenting Human Rights Abuses Among the Diaspora: Lessons Learned From the Liberian Truth and Reconciliation Commission,” *Negotiating Sovereignty and Human Rights: Actors and Issues in Contemporary Human Rights Politics* (2009)
- Author, *Supreme Court Issues Decisions Allowing Deportation to Countries Without a Functioning Government, Applies Zadvydas to Lifers*, 82 Interpreter Releases 149 (Jan. 17, 2005)
- Author, *President Signs North Korean Human Rights Act*, 81 Interpreter Releases 1492 (Oct. 25, 2004)
- Editor, *The Bush Temporary Worker Proposal And Comparative Pending Legislation: An Analysis* 81 Interpreter Releases 477 (April 12, 2004)
- Author, *President Bush Announces Immigration Initiative*, 81 Interpreter Releases 33 (January 12, 2004)
- Author, *INS Grants Asylum Based on Widow Ritual and FGM*, 79 Interpreter Releases 1236 (Aug. 19, 2002)
- Author, *INS Grants Asylum Based on Fear of Honor Killing*, 79 Interpreter Releases 594 (Apr. 22, 2002)

## **SELECTED TRAININGS, PRESENTATIONS, & SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS**

- Faculty, The Ethics of Growing Your Practice and Law Practice Management, D.C. Chapter, American Immigration Lawyers Association, Fall Conference, 2016
- Faculty, Winning Asylum Claims Based on Particular Social Groups, D.C. Chapter, American Immigration Lawyers Association, Fall Conference, 2014
- Faculty, Immigration Options After Graduation, Graduate Student Legal Aid Office, University of Maryland College Park, Lunch with a Lawyer Series, 2012-Present
- Panelist, Children of Wartime Rape and the Liberian Experience, American University, 2008
- Panelist, The Liberian Truth and Reconciliation Commission: A Panel Discussion, American University, 2008
- Faculty, Cultural Considerations—Liberian Truth and Reconciliation Diaspora Project, Washington, D.C., 2007
- Faculty, Interviewing Refugees for Human Rights Fact-finding, American University, 2007
- Panelist, Reflections on Gender Based Violence in Liberia during the Civil War, American Refugee Committee Congressional Briefing, 2006

**LANGUAGES:** English, French, Spanish, Pidgin English, and Krio

## **REPRESENTATIVE CASES**

### **Board of Immigration Appeals and U.S. Immigration Courts**

Obtained deferral of removal under the Convention Against Torture for an El Salvadoran man due to harm inflicted by the police on account of being an imputed whistle blower.

Prevented the deportation of Guatemalan and Mexican women who had fled their countries after suffering years of domestic violence, including physical, sexual, and psychological abuse, at the hands of their ex-husbands and obtained asylum for them.

Secured withholding of removal for a mother from Guatemala who had been abused for over 10 years by her husband.

Secured asylum for a woman from Honduras based on her well-founded fear of persecution on account of her particular social group. Successfully argued that her social group merited protection under U.S. law.

Prevented the deportation of a Somali woman who entered the U.S. with a false U.S. passport and successfully filed for a waiver and adjustment of status. Filed a successful Motion to Reopen before the Board of Immigration Appeals more than 5 years after she had been ordered removed.

Secured waiver of inadmissibility for misrepresentation and permanent resident status for a Sierra Leonean man based on the extreme hardship that his lawful permanent resident wife would suffer if he were deported.

Convinced the Immigration Judge to administratively close the removal case of an El Salvadoran man by making a prima facie showing that he had acquired derivative U.S citizenship. Client was in absentia during his removal proceedings due to state incarceration for possession of drugs.

Filed successful adjustment of status and waiver applications before the Immigration Judge for Ivorian man convicted of robbery.

Filed and won appeal of USCIS denial of a marriage-based petition following USCIS interview of the couple whose answers contained multiple discrepancies, and the U.S. citizen spouse had not met her in-laws, despite their visit to the U.S. during the marriage.

### **U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services**

Obtained asylum for a Colombian woman based on her membership in a particular social group composed of an ethnic minority. Members of her ethnic group had suffered persistent discrimination and persecution for years and she was targeted for speaking out against the injustices.

Obtained a waiver of the J-1 two-year home residence requirement for a Liberian Fulbright Scholar who could not obtain a no objection waiver.

Obtained asylum for a gay, Turkish man who had been abused by the police and was a potential “honor killing” victim due to his sexual orientation.

Successfully defended against a naturalization denial based on alleged marriage fraud and obtained approval of the Nigerian client’s application for naturalization.

Obtained citizenship for a Guinean man who had been convicted of two crimes, one involving moral turpitude and the other involving a hand gun.

Obtained Parole in Place for a El Salvadoran woman whose husband served in the U.S. military as a member of the Navy, so she could adjust status to permanent residence without leaving the United States, which would have triggered a bar to her re-entry due to her previous unlawful presence.

Obtained Temporary Protected Status for an El Salvadoran man who had two DUI convictions. Successfully argued that one of the convictions did not meet the definition of a conviction under the immigration laws and the law in the Fourth Circuit.

Obtained removal of conditions on residence and waiver of the joint filing requirement for a Colombian woman whose marriage to the U.S. citizen petitioner had dissolved after she received permanent residence based on their marriage.

Successfully petitioned for H-1B status for a Registered Nurse while representing health care company that required a Bachelor’s degree for the position, instead of an Associate’s degree.

### **U.S. Consulates:**

Convinced the U.S. consulate in Vienna, Austria, that a Slovakian man with prior immigration violations, unlawful presence in the United States, and a previous removal order should be re-admitted to the United States

Obtained immigrant visa and admission to the U.S. for a Yemeni woman who had been previously been denied

parole.