

Curriculum Vitae

JOY FRITSCHMANN ATHANASIOU

EXPERIENCE:

- Joy Strategies, LLC.** Denver, CO February 2016 - Present
- Federal, State and local advocacy specializing in immigration law and policy, including direct lobbying, messaging, organizing and coalition building.
 - Political consulting and advising on candidate and issue campaigns.
 - Contract attorney and legal expert in the areas of immigration and nationality law, international law and election law.
- Elkind, Alterman and Harston, Inc.** Denver, CO February 2014 - November 2015
Of Counsel
- Practiced immigration and nationality law for individual and corporate clients. Represented individuals with federal agencies, in immigration removal proceedings and in the federal court of appeals.
- Athanasiou Law Firm, LLC.** Denver, CO January 2008 - January 2014
Managing Attorney/Owner
- Managing attorney of law firm specializing in immigration and nationality law.
 - Oversaw all client matters and supervising all facets of office administration.
- Aguirre Law Group, P.C.** Denver, CO Oct. 2005 - May 2007
Associate Attorney
- Established Denver office of California based immigration law firm with special emphasis on removal litigation and complex family immigration.
- Law Office of Marie H. Lowe,** Denver, CO Oct. 2001 - Sept. 2005
Associate Attorney
- Immigration practice representing all areas of immigration and nationality law.
- Law Firm of Joseph D. Bloch, P.C.,** Denver, CO Apr. 1998 - Sept. 2001
Associate Attorney & Law Clerk (April 1998 - September 2001)
- Employed in small, high volume firm specializing in family law, criminal, personal injury and employment law.
- American Refugee Committee,** Sarajevo, Bosnia Jul. 1997 - Aug. 1997
Extern
- Developed and secured funding for refugee repatriation projects.
 - Negotiated with various officials to facilitate project implementation.
- Denver Juvenile Court, Division I,** Denver, CO Sep. 1996 - Apr. 1997
Law Clerk and Intern to Judge David J. Ramirez
- Researched and drafted motions, orders and judicial reviews.
 - Managed and coordinated several aspects of trials and hearings

Ecumenical Refugee Service, Denver, CO May 1994 – Aug. 1995
Case Manager and Mentor

- Assisted newly arriving refugees with all aspects of resettling.
- Drafted grant proposals and worked on fundraising for refugee families.

EDUCATION: **University of Denver, Denver, CO** May, 1998
College of Law, Juris Doctor
Graduate School of International Studies, Master of Arts
Scholastic Excellence Award (1997)

Metropolitan State College of Denver, Denver, CO December, 1993
Bachelor of Arts in Political Science
Colorado Scholar Award (1992 – 1993)

LICENSURE: **Supreme Court, State of Colorado**
U.S. District Court, District of Colorado
10th Circuit Court of Appeals

PROFESSIONAL: **American Immigration Lawyers Association**

- Co-Chair, Legislative Advocacy Committee
- Founder and advisor, U Visa Working Group

Colorado Bar Association
Colorado Women's Bar Association

- Former Board Member (five terms)
- Former Co-Chair, Public Policy Committee & Lobbyist Committee

LITIGATION SUPPORT/EXPERT WITNESS EXPERIENCE:

- Colorado v. Hernandez-Hernandez, 2014CR_____, Boulder District Court. Endorsed as expert in state criminal proceeding.
- United States of America v. (Name Withheld due to Closed Proceeding), Criminal Case No. 15-mj-01087-MEH, (District Court, Colorado 2015). Provided expert testimony in federal extradition proceeding.
- U.S. v. Pohan, 08CR134, District Court, Colorado). Qualified as an immigration expert by the U.S. District Court.

AWARDS: 2017 AILA Colorado Chapter Service Award
2015 AILA Colorado Chapter Service Award
2014 ADA Access Award, Colorado Cross Disability Coalition
Finalist, 2005 Denver Business Journal Best of the Bar Awards

PRESENTATIONS: **Panelist**, “Rise Up Panel,” CWBA Annual Conference, 2019
Speaker, Dreamer Summit, hosted by International Church of Las Vegas, 2017
Speaker, Immigration & Refugee Community Forum, hosted by Denver Mayor Michael Hancock, US Attorney Bob Troyer, & ACLU, 2017
Speaker, Deferred Action, Immigration Law Fundamentals, CBA, 2015
Speaker, Immigration Law for Elder Law Practitioners, CBA, 2015
Speaker, Immigration Law for Tax Practitioners, CBA, 2015
Speaker, The Intersection of Immigration and Family Law, CBA, 2013
Speaker, Immigration Issues in Public Schools, Colorado Association for Bilingual Education Conference (Sponsored in part by the HEAA Coalition), 2011

Speaker, AILA Annual Conference, Panel on Affidavits of Support, 2010
Speaker, CWBA Annual Convention, Panel on Immigration Reform, 2007
Speaker, University of Denver Law School, Panel on Immigration Reform, 2007
Master of Ceremonies, New Legislator Reception, jointly sponsored by Women's Lobby of Colorado, Colorado Women's Bar Association & Alliance of Professional Women, 2004, 2002
Introductory Speaker, Get Out the Vote Rally featuring Rev. Jesse Jackson, sponsored by Metropolitan State College of Denver & Rainbow Coalition, 1992

PUBLICATIONS: "For Democrats The Path to Unity Must Involve Sanders Ideals," Co-Author, Denver Post Guest Commentary, 07/31/2016.
 "Can We Achieve Immigration Reform?," Law Week Colorado, 05/15/2014.
 "Legal Options for Immigrant Women Who Are Victims Of Exploitation And Abuse," Colorado Lawyer, Vol. 41, No. 10, 10/2012.
 "Basic Facts about Undocumented Students," prepared for HEAA Coalition, 2011.
 "Just Fill Out the Form: A Step By Step Guide To Affidavits Of Support," AILA Immigration and Nationality Law Handbook, 2010.
 "The Urgency of Immigration Reform, Denver Post Guest Opinion, 03/31/2010.
 "Yes We Can Achieve Immigration Reform," *El Comercio*, Vol. 59, 08/28/2008.
 Contributor, "Annual Legislative Wrap-Up" *CWBA Advocate*, 07/2004.
 "ASK Event", *CWBA Advocate*, 06/2005.
 Co-Author, "Public Policy Committee Needs Your Help," *CWBA Advocate*, 10/2003.
 Report cataloging incidents of torture committed by the Sudanese government and government backed militias, DU Graduate School of International Studies, 1994.

CIVIC ACTIVITIES: Committee to Elect Lee Kemp/Lee Kemp for Colorado Senate

- Campaign Manager 2016
- Campaign Co-Chair & Treasurer, 2004 - 2012

Theresa Spahn for Mayor

- Campaign "kitchen cabinet" member

Women's Lobby of Colorado

- Chair, 2005 - 2007
- Former Board Member

Denver Immigrant Legal Services Fund

- Chair, Fundraising Committee
- City Council Designated Member, Advisory Committee

Advocacy at Colorado State Legislature

- Served as legal expert for ASSET/In-State Tuition Bill (2009-2013)
- Testified regarding anti-sanctuary bill, 2017
- Testified regarding E-Verify bill, 2016
- Testified regarding Department of Labor affirmation bill, 2016
- Testified regarding immigration enforcement bills, 2006, 2008, 2011
- Testified regarding guest-farmworker bill, 2008
- Testified regarding dissolution of marriage counseling requirements bill, 2001