

business spotlight

Law Offices of Manuela Morais

Moorestown | (856) 222-0130 | MoraisLaw.com



The Law Offices of Manuela Morais radiates an expertise and extensive knowledge in all areas of immigration law. by JENNIFER ZYLA

It is no secret that immigration has been at the forefront of hundreds of U.S. headlines in recent months. While you may think those people who have emigrated to the U.S. are the only ones in jeopardy, a lot of businesses that depend on these employees, who uproot their families to come to America and work for them are also feeling uneasy about the current state of immigrant affairs.

Luckily for corporations, small startups and big Fortune 500 companies—as well as individuals with personal matters—the Law Offices of Manuela Morais’ expertise in immigration matters runs the gamut and it is readily available to deliver high-quality service and results to its clients.

“The firm represents individuals, corporations and foreign national workers who are coming to work in the U.S.,” explains Morais, founder of her law firm in downtown Moorestown. The clientele of the firm ranges from startup companies to Fortune 500 companies in various industries, located throughout the globe. She says that one of the biggest struggles for businesses today is keeping up and complying with constantly changing regulations and policies. In addition to assisting with employee transfers, permanent residency and other employment-related

immigration issues, the Law Offices of Manuela Morais offers compliance services to their clients.

Coming to America from Portugal at the age of 4, Morais is more than acquainted with the process of becoming a legal U.S. citizen—a colossal part of her character that has led to her passion for and commitment to immigration law. She started working with immigration as a congressional aide, a job that fueled her interest in going to law school, so that she could ultimately practice as an immigration attorney.

“Working as a congressional aide on immigration and consular issues was an amazing learning experience, and really opened my eyes to how difficult the visa process was for most individuals and companies,” Morais says.

She went on to work for a Philadelphia-based immigration boutique firm during law school and was hired by Pepper Hamilton LLP upon graduation from law school. From there, she joined Blank Rome LLP, Philadelphia, where she started their immigration practice and was responsible for the day-to-day management of the practice. In 2014, after nearly 17 years of working at big law firms, she left Blank Rome to start her own practice.

The Law Offices of Manuela Morais has grown to a total of 10 employees in just three years. One unique aspect of the firm is that its team of attorneys and paralegals currently consists solely of women. Going out on her own fostered an entrepreneurial spirit, which inspired a passion to encourage and support other women to do the same. Today, she serves as a member of the board of directors, as well as the chair of membership committee of Women Owned Law, a newly established organization with a mission of providing opportunities for women legal entrepreneurs to come together, support each other and help each other’s firms prosper.

“Helping to get this organization off the ground is so important because it encourages women to pursue alternate career paths,” Morais says. “The organization not only supports women who may be thinking about going out on their own, but also promotes and unifies women who already have established law firms.”

She has also served as an adjunct professor at the University of Pennsylvania Law School. In each of these roles, she has worked to encourage women to have an entrepreneurial spirit, to take on leadership roles in the profession and to encourage career paths in immigration law.

As a business owner herself, Morais understands the struggles that businesses, both large and small, face on a day-to-day basis and how important it is to ensure that her clients’ needs are met in the most quick, efficient manner. The majority of the firm’s practice is dedicated solely to supporting businesses with immigration matters and bringing in foreign employees, while a smaller portion of the practice consists of handling individual matters such as marriage-based cases and deportation removals.

“I understand the importance of business decisions and action,” Morais says. “For all of my clients, having key employees transferred to the U.S. legally in a timely fashion, and further assisting them in getting settled in the U.S., is critical to their overall success. I work hand-in-hand with my clients to get this done. The fact is that in today’s world, not just in the U.S., but globally, immigration law is an ever-growing challenge. I love that I have the opportunity to work with companies and their employees to solve sometimes very complicated immigration and business issues. It also helps that I personally love a good challenge, and that I can connect and relate to people who are undergoing their immigration process.” ■