CRYSTAL M. MALIK

IMMIGRATION

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Crystal is an director in the Immigration Practice group.

Crystal assists clients with a wide variety of immigration processes including employment, humanitarian and family-based immigrant petitions, complex naturalization, derivative citizenship, and non-immigrant employment-based immigration processes.

She counsels clients regarding employment regulations including OPT/CPT requirements for international students and I-9 for all employees. Each year she assists clients in filing hundreds of green cards applications via adjustment of status and consular processing. She has experience with DACA/TPS and their intersection with employment and family-based immigration processes/admissibility, as well as special immigrant petitions, VAWA self-petitions, U-visas, humanitarian reinstatement and waivers of inadmissibility. She provides advice regarding the immigration consequences of criminal convictions. She regularly helps clients troubleshoot a variety of stalled immigration status-related state-based application processes including SAVE verifications for driver's licenses and Social Security applications and has experience navigating motor vehicles rules, regulations and application processes all over the country.

Crystal's interest in immigration law began while sponsoring her husband's U.S. immigrant petition, an experience that motivated her choice of immigration law as a career. During law school, she was a Law Clerk with the Immigration Practice Group at McCandlish Holton, and volunteered with the Harry L. Carrico Center for Pro Bono Service at the University of Richmond School of Law to assist clients of the school's Immigration, No Fault Divorce and Wills for Seniors projects and served on the Trial Advocacy Board and as a Law School Admissions Representative. Prior to law school Crystal worked as a Paramedic and a Spanish teacher in the Richmond metro-area.

ADMISSIONS

- Virginia
- United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit

RECOGNITIONS

- Best Lawyers® "Ones to Watch" honoree, Immigration Law, since 2021

EDUCATION

- University of Richmond School of Law, J.D.
- Virginia Commonwealth University, M.T.
- Virginia Commonwealth University, B.A.

PRESENTATIONS

- Discussion Leader, "Schedule A: Navigating Healthcare Immigration in a Time of Shortage," AILA Annual Conference, San Diego, California (June 2026)
- Presenter, "Surviving the Trump Tsunami: Advising Students/Scholars Amidst Rapid Change," NAFSA Region IV Conference, St. Louis, Missouri (October 2025)
- Presenter, "Parole, TPS, and Academic/Scholar Advising on Immigration Options," NAFSA Region VIII Conference, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, (November 2024)
- Panelist, "The Changing Face of Temporary Intent," NAFSA Region XI Conference, Hartford, CT, (October 2024)
- Panelist, "Local USCIS Hot Topics," AILA DC Chapter Fall Conference, (September 2023)
- Panelist, "International Student Relief in Times of Crisis," VIE Virtual Programming, (April 2022)

INVOLVEMENT

- AILA | American Immigration Lawyers Association
  - -DC Chapter, Liaison to the USCIS Norfolk Field Office, 2022-Present
  - -DMV Taskforce, Chair 2017-2018: State-by-State DMV Resource
- MRWBA | Metro Richmond Women's Bar Association

McCandlish Holton Attorneys at Law