

Barbara Bleisch

Barbara Bleisch is an attorney in St. Louis, whose practice is limited to immigration-related matters. She represents individuals from all parts of the world who seek to come to the U.S. or to stay here, either on a temporary basis or as immigrants. She helps U.S. citizens and permanent residents who are trying to bring their relatives from abroad. She also represents individuals seeking protection from persecution in their home country, and she defends asylum-seekers and others in deportation proceedings before the Immigration Court, the Board of Immigration Appeals, and the U.S. Circuit Courts of Appeals.

Barbara's interest in international folklore began when she started dancing with the International Folk Dance Association in St. Louis at the age of 11. She majored in Russian Language and Literature at Yale University, where she sang with the Yale Slavic Chorus. During her first year of law school, she completed her Master's Degree in Slavic Languages at the University of Kansas. Barbara speaks Russian fluently, is conversant in Serbo-Croatian and Bosnian, and can understand and read several other languages.

Barbara feels that working as an immigration attorney is the most satisfying profession she could ever imagine. By helping her clients navigate the complicated and intimidating aspects of U.S. immigration and visa law, she can sometimes give an entire family their only hope for a better future. At the same time, she is able to advance the cause of cultural diversity in the U.S., and to satisfy her own interest in the cultures and languages of various parts of the world.

Barbara will speak at the NFO conference about visa options for teachers, performers, and presenters of folk culture.