

TOP RATED LAWYERS
2016 EDITION**IMMIGRATION****MISSOURI KANSAS CITY****LEON VERSFELD**

Mr. Leon Versfeld serves as the United States Managing Partner of the Global Immigration Law Firm of Versfeld & Hugo, LLC. He represents a variety of clients from startup businesses to Fortune Companies, both nationally and internationally, on the hiring of Foreign National Workers, Executives and Specialized Workers in the L1, H1B, TN, E3, O and H2B visa categories; and advises clients on strategies to obtain permanent residency. Additionally, he provides counsel on all issues related to Immigration Employment Compliance and HR best hiring practices, including Form I-9 and ICE audits.

Mr. Versfeld represents entrepreneurs with the EB-5 green card investment process as well as treaty investment visas.

He serves as the immigration counsel to the Major League Soccer team, Sporting Kansas City, and has assisted similar athletic organizations with visas for coaches, players and staff, as well as individual athletes and artists seeking to obtain green cards through their extra-ordinary accomplishments.

Mr. Versfeld often speaks at national and international Continuing Legal Education events where he educates other lawyers on the topic of U.S. Immigration and has testified before the Missouri Legislator on proposed Employment-based Immigration legislation. He has served in numerous criminal and civil cases as an immigration expert witness and authored the Missouri Bar's Administrative Law Book on Immigration and published numerous articles on U.S. Immigration Law.

Mr. Versfeld has been recognized by his peers as one of the "Best of the Bar" (featured in the Kansas City Business Journal), featured in Thomson Reuters' "Super Lawyers", and he has the highest professional rating with Martindale Hubble and AVO.

He obtained his law degrees from the University of Pretoria (South Africa) and is licensed to practice law in the United States (MO), South Africa, England and Wales.



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MISSOURI ST. LOUIS**MELANIE GURLEY KEENEY**

Melanie Gurley Keeney practices in Immigration, Employment and Education law representing corporations, institutions of higher education, and individuals in immigration matters, including obtaining temporary and permanent visas, employer sanctions issues, I-9 compliance, E-Verify, consular processing and naturalization. She was named St. Louis Best Lawyers "Education Law Lawyer of the Year" for 2017 and "Immigration Law-Lawyer of the Year" for 2015 and 2012. Since 1997, she has been listed in St. Louis Magazine's "St. Louis' Best Lawyers" and in "The Best Lawyers in America" in Education Law, Employment Law - Management and Immigration Law. She has been named to "Missouri & Kansas Super Lawyers," as a "Top 50" Woman Lawyer in Missouri and Kansas. In 2016, Missouri Lawyers Weekly awarded Melanie the Women's Justice Litigation Practitioner Award. In 2014, Washington University School of Law honored Melanie with the International Women's Day Award for Employment Law. Melanie represents public and private employers in the full gamut of employment issues, including state and federal litigation. She is a featured speaker and provides preventive employment law services, including supervisor training and compliance audits. Melanie is a founding Shareholder of the Firm and serves as Chairwoman. She graduated from Baylor University, *phi beta kappa*, and from Washington University School of Law.



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OHIO CLEVELAND**ROBERT L. BROWN**

Attorney and Managing Partner Robert Brown received his *Juris Doctorate* from the Cleveland Marshall School of Law and is admitted to practice law in the State of Ohio and District of Columbia. He is also accepted to practice before the Executive Office of Immigration Review, Board of Immigration Appeals, and all Homeland Security offices throughout the US, the US District Court for the Northern District of Ohio, Federal Court for the District of Columbia and the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals.

As Managing Partner, Robert oversees all of the firm's offices in Ohio, North Carolina and Florida, and practice areas including employment-based immigration, family-based immigration, naturalization and citizenship, removal defense and employer compliance. His career spanned five decades in the immigration field, including over twenty-five years of employment with the legacy US Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service ("INS"). With the INS, Robert held varying field and leadership positions, including, Special Agent, NYC, Deputy Chief of Investigations, Washington, D.C., Cleveland District Director, acting Regional Commissioner, Burlington, Vermont and Chairman of the Immigration Director's Association. He served under Presidents Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, Bush and Clinton.



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