Margot Kniffin

Attorney

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Margot Kniffin is based in the firm's Washington, D.C. office and leads the Federal Litigation Practice. She has significant experience as a former Department of Justice Senior Litigation Counsel as well challenging federal agency actions on behalf of clients in private law.

She currently represents individuals, employers, and sponsoring institutions challenging unlawful agency action, including delayed or denied immigration petitions under the Administrative Procedure Act. Her practice centers on complex federal court litigation involving immigration benefits adjudications, agency delay, and constitutional and statutory challenges to government decision-making.

Margot brings over a decade of federal court litigation experience to Klasko. As a fierce advocate dedicated to her clients, she previously led a federal litigation practice at a boutique immigration firm. She successfully litigated dozens of cases challenging arbitrary and delayed agency action, as well as unlawful detention, in the U.S. District Courts and U.S. Courts of Appeals. Her work there required that she develop complex legal strategy, navigate agency records, and craft persuasive written and oral arguments on behalf of her clients.

For nearly a decade, she served as Senior Litigation Counsel with the Department of Justice Civil Division's Office of Immigration Litigation. She successfully litigated significant immigration matters on behalf of the United States, supported the Solicitor General's Office in Supreme Court briefing, and managed hundreds of immigration

EDUCATION

University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, *cum laude*

Reed College

ADMISSIONS

California

PRACTICE AREAS

Immigration Litigation

Corporate Immigration

EB-5 Immigration

KLASKO

cases across the circuits. In 2018, she received a Special Commendation Award for her contributions to the Department.

Earlier in her career, Margot spent five years with the Executive Office for Immigration Review, which she joined through the Attorney General's Honors Program. Her government experience provides her with a unique understanding of agency proceedings, how they build the administrative record, and how the government defends its decisions – insights which she now applies on behalf of her clients.

Margot developed an interest in immigration law prior to law school, when she worked on immigration policy as a community organizer in Portland, Oregon. This experience motivated her decision to attend law school, where she worked for two years as a student attorney at the University of Maryland's immigration clinic and volunteered as a legal intern with Kids in Need of Defense.

ASSOCIATIONS

American Immigration Lawyers Association, Member

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Litigating Petitions for Review, American Immigration Lawyers Association D.C. Chapter Conference, Rockville, Maryland (October 2026)

Litigation Strategies: *Waiver and Exhaustion,* Office of Immigration Litigation Professional Development Training, Washington D.C. (June 2025)

Update on the Motive Requirement for Asylum and Withholding of Removal, Office of Immigration Litigation Annual Training, Washington, D.C. (October 2024)

The Shifting Burdens of Internal Relocation, Office of Immigration Litigation Biennial Asylum Training, Washington, D.C. (April 2024)

Particular Social Groups: *Landowners, Women, and Witnesses*, Office of Immigration Litigation Annual Training, Washinton, D.C. (October 2023)

Protected Ground Updates: *Religion and Political Opinion Claims*, Office of Immigration Litigation Annual Training, Washington, D.C. (October 2022)

Developments in "Harm Rising to the Level" and the "Government's Role," Office of Immigration Litigation Biennial Asylum Training, Washinton, D.C. (April 2022)