

**K**risten A. Harris, 38, skillfully navigates today's challenging global landscape to provide immigration expertise to clients in the financial, healthcare, manufacturing and technology industries. She also represents individuals and families in green card and naturalization cases as a partner at Rubman & Harris.

As an example of her effectiveness as an immigration attorney, Harris has maintained an approval rate of 100% at a company with many foreign employees. "We have Ph.D.-level employees from China, Denmark, France, India, Taiwan, and Turkey," said the owner of the company. "She has been able to work effectively and comfortably with all of them in the process of getting them work visas. Consistently obtaining approvals from U.S. Immigration for employment-related immigration benefits is an exceptional result indeed in the current political climate."

Harris the first person to receive Raymon Grossman's immigration law referrals because of her passion and pragmatism, said Grossman, who has known Harris for more than 10 years. "Kristen has always showed an enthusiastic willingness to answer inquiries of clients who have no hope of pro-active benefit without fee. She provides realistic if also heartbreaking answers on the reality of lack of options for the undocumented under the current law. In addition, where there are answers or options, Kristen goes the extra mile to find them."

Grossman recalled being in Palestinian territories in January, when Harris advised a young man he met regarding questions about getting a student visa. The young man will now have an opportunity to study in the United States. "She did so, as she frequently does, with full expertise and without charge," Grossman said.

Harris possesses an innate ability to achieve great results for her clients, said fellow American Immigration Lawyers Association member Stephen Navarre, who has known Harris for seven years. "Ms. Harris has a rare combination of a thorough and in-depth knowledge of the statutes, regulations and case law, coupled with an uncanny practical ability to apply the law successfully to the messy real world of family and business relationships in which immigrants find themselves," Navarre said.

In addition to her legal instincts, Harris is known for her leadership. Victoria Donati, corporate counsel of Euromarket Designs, Inc (Crate & Barrel and CB2) first met Harris when she joined Neal, Gerber & Eisenberg, and has stayed in contact with her as a contact for her immigration specialization, as a fellow attorney, and as a friend. "She cares quite unselfishly about the profession as a whole. Kristen frequently has taken time out of her busy schedule to lead others by playing the role of educator," said Donati. Harris has published nationally regarding business immigration issues, coordinated seminars to educate physicians, administrators and human resource managers on immigration law, and spoken at community groups about immigration law and reform.

Harris previously chaired the Chicago Bar Association's Immigration and Nationality Law Committee. She currently chairs the advocacy efforts of the International Medical Graduate Taskforce (IMGT), which focuses on physician immigration. Through the IMGT, she is currently advocating for an important piece of legislation to use the immigration system to alleviate the growing physician shortage in local communities across the United States.

She has served on the USCIS Chicago District Director Liaison Committee and U.S. Customs and Border Protection Liaison Committee. She is active in the Chicago chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers' Association, serving as a frequent speaker at regional and chapter conferences and as past co-chair of the chapter's Young Lawyers' Division. She has served on board of the Jewish Council on Urban Affairs and previously volunteered as an ESL teacher for Latino Union (an immigrant day laborer group), which she credits with her initial interest in immigration law. Ms. Harris also provides informal *pro bono* services to immigrant families of children involved with Albany Park Theater Project, an inner-city theater troupe.

Harris received a bachelor's and master's degree from Yale University and earned her J.D. degree from the University of Michigan in 1998. Before she began at Rubman and Harris, she worked in securities litigation at the Securities and Exchange Commission and practiced corporate law with Neal, Gerber & Eisenberg, a major Chicago law firm.



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