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The Wagner Law Group Adds Immigration Partner In Boston

Share us on: By [Nicole Narea](#)

Law360, New York (July 10, 2017, 8:48 PM EDT) -- The [Wagner Law Group](#) is expanding its employee benefits practice into immigration law, adding an attorney with expertise in business and family immigration as a partner in its Boston office.

With 17 years of experience in immigration law, Melissa McNamee, who formerly operated her own practice out of Miami and Boston, will focus on labor certification, waivers, family-based immigration and naturalization, the firm said Thursday. She will also handle



various types of visas, including those for nonimmigrants, international executives and managers, and outstanding researchers, the firm said.



Melissa McNamee

McNamee told Law360 on Monday that her practice has served high-net-worth individuals and that she plans to maintain those clients at Wagner while also taking on the firm's corporate clients, many of which are Fortune 500 companies.

"I'm excited after 10 years of being self-employed and bouncing back and forth between my Miami and Boston offices to have the administrative support at Wagner that I need as my practice continues to grow," McNamee said.

McNamee started her career as an immigration paralegal in 1999, deciding then that she wanted to attend law school, she said. She went on to serve as in-house corporate counsel to [Novell Inc.](#), where she was responsible for the inbound and outbound transfer of over 200 employees per year, immigration issues in relation to mergers and acquisitions and a budget of \$1 million.

Over the course of her practice, she says she came to understand that immigration law changes constantly. So in spite of White House promises to implement broad reforms, she said she has not perceived any more upheaval in her practice than usual. However, she does see a shift in her client's priorities.

"My clients used to be comfortable waiting a couple of years to begin the green card process," she said. "But they aren't waiting anymore. They feel as in limbo, even though nothing has changed in the law."

McNamee also cites the steady decline of available H-1B nonimmigrant visas, which were plentiful when she first started practicing immigration law. Now, she says, Congress appears unwilling to extend existing caps on H-1B visas, which means finding other avenues to obtain visas.

McNamee is also a legal educator, teaching labor certification at Florida International University Law School, temporary protected status at University of Miami Law School's award winning Haitian clinic program, and immigration options for undocumented clients at the Health Rights Clinic.

"The expansion of our practice into immigration law goes hand-in-hand with our robust employment law practice, and Melissa brings the high level of expertise and professionalism for which our firm has become well known," Marcia Wagner, Wagner's managing director, said in a statement.

McNamee earned her undergraduate degree from Boston University, a master's in public affairs from the University of Massachusetts, Boston, and her law degree from Suffolk

University Law School.

--Editing by Jill Coffey.

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By [Kevin Penton](#) Nov 16, 2015

Two former Norton Rose Fulbright immigration attorneys have opened Ansbach + Ghouse PLLC, a Texas-based firm that will focus on assisting companies with corporate immigration matters.

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[Q&A With Phillips Lytle's Rana Jazayerli](#)

May 26, 2015

While we say the U.S. is a country of immigrants, people either forget or do not understand what this really means — it takes unbelievable courage to choose to leave your home, family and everything you know to move to another country, where you probably do not even speak

the native language. That is the essence of the immigrant story, says Rana Jazayerli of Phillips Lytle LLP.

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Q&A With Ogletree Deakins' Jacquelyn Maroney

Apr 17, 2015

Although President Obama's recent executive actions on immigration are largely focused on deferring deportation and providing work authorization, the proposed changes to certain employment-based programs will also impact the business community, says Jacquelyn Maroney of Ogletree Deakins Nash Smoak & Stewart PC.

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Q&A With Carothers' Richard Green

Apr 08, 2015

An issue that continues to trouble the U.S. immigration system is the sheer lack of visas. In order for foreign students who have graduated from American universities to obtain permanent residency the process can take applicants years, decades or even an entire lifetime, says Richard Green of Carothers DiSante & Freudenberger LLP.

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Ogletree Adds Ex-Fulbright Immigration Pro To Austin Office

By [Jonathan Randles](#) **Feb 04, 2013**

Ogletree Deakins Nash, Smoak & Stewart PC has bolstered its Austin, Texas-based office with the addition of a former Fulbright & Jaworski LLP attorney specializing in matters related to immigration law, the firm said Monday.

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