



2026 Palm Beach County Bar Association Bench Bar Conference

March 6, 2026

Time: 8:30 AM – 9:45 AM

Immigration Law Session **Advancing Digital Immigration Case Management**

This 75-minute course will cover the evolving role of technology in immigration law and its impact on legal practice, courtroom procedures, and access to justice. The program will examine the transition to paperless immigration systems, including electronic filing through EOIR ECAS, digital Records of Proceedings (ROPs), online FOIA requests, and USCIS electronic case management tools. Panelists will discuss increased adjudicatory scrutiny, best practices for thorough case evaluation, ethical considerations for attorneys handling immigration-related matters, and how digital access to records enhances representation for self-represented individuals. The session will also address judicial expectations in a virtual courtroom environment and explore how the legal profession can adapt to these changes while safeguarding due process and professional responsibility.

Panelists: Nadine Heitz, Esq., Ana Ionescu, Esq.

Session Moderator: Jacqueline Delgado and Barbara Memon

I. INTRODUCTION

- Welcome and session overview
- Introductions and bios of moderators and panelists
- Connection to the conference theme: “The Next Play – Navigating the Future of Law”

II. ADVANCING DIGITAL IMMIGRATION CASE MANAGEMENT

- Transition to a paperless practice: from physical files to digital Records of Proceedings (ROPs)
- EOIR’s ECAS system and virtual hearing platforms
- USCIS online accounts for case filings, updates, and communication
- Digital payments, automated receipts, and secure online evidence uploads
- Using technology to streamline client intake, file management, and task automation
- FOIA Modernization: accessing case files through the DHS online FOIA portal, tracking requests electronically, and integrating digital responses into client case files

III. THOROUGH CASE EVALUATION IN THE DIGITAL ERA

- Increased scrutiny in family and long-term petition adjudications
- Preparing comprehensive supporting evidence and anticipating Requests for Evidence (RFEs)
- Ethical obligations for attorneys handling cases with immigration implications

- Identifying minor criminal issues and collateral risks before filing
- Using online databases and digital tools for background checks, client screening, and document management

IV. Q&A SESSION

- Audience discussion on technology adoption, FOIA and ROP integration, and the next