

TPS Workshop Speaker Biographies

Michael J. Williams, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Community Relations Specialist

Mr. Williams began his career in public and community relations as a Radio and Television Broadcaster in the U.S. Air Force Public Affairs field in 2006. He served in Italy, Iraq, Maryland, and Colorado during his time in the Air Force. After leaving the Air Force in 2012, he worked as a Community Engagement Regional Coordinator for Denver Public Schools. Mr. Williams has also held positions with the U.S. Army, the Colorado Public Employees' Retirement Association (COPERA) and U.S. ICE Community Relations.

He is graduate of the Community College of the Air Force and Ashford University and earned his MBA in 2014 from Regis University.

Jane Waterman-Joyce

As a hybrid employment and immigration attorney, Jane Waterman-Joyce focuses her energy on developing solutions for employers with a global workforce. This includes delivering creative solutions for work authorizations, advising employers on compliance matters, and assisting clients in filing for employment-based visas. One creative solution for a nonprofit employer involved filing Temporary Protected Status and work authorization applications for the employer's Ukrainian workforce, who had been stranded in the U.S. when Russia invaded. Because of this experience, Jane now coordinates with other attorneys to provide training on Temporary Protected Status applications and work authorizations for those who have received or are anticipating a grant of Temporary Protected Status.

Joy Athanasiou

Joy Athanasiou owns and manages Joy Strategies, LLC, a boutique firm providing expert legal, political and policy consulting services to businesses, local governments and non-profit organizations. Joy is an immigration attorney with over two decades of experience specializing in removal defense, humanitarian relief and complex family immigration. Joy graduated from the University of Denver with a Juris Doctor and a Masters in International Studies, and obtained her Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from Metropolitan State University of Denver.

Additionally, Joy is a steadfast advocate for immigration reform at the local, state and federal level. She has lobbied at the state and federal level, testified at the Colorado legislature, lectured and written articles on immigration law and policy and worked on candidate and issue campaigns. Joy is an active member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, Colorado Bar Association, and Colorado Women's Bar Association. She currently serves as the Chair of the Legislative Advocacy Committee of the American Immigration Lawyers Association Colorado Chapter, Co-Chairs the Fundraising Committee for the City of Denver Immigrant Legal Services Fund and sits on the Fund's Advisory Committee.

Marcos Castillo

Marcos is a 1st generation Mexican immigrant who calls Denver home. He received his B.A. in Political Science from the University of Colorado - Boulder. He began his professional career with the Colorado International Trade Office as a Trade Specialist focusing on developing business opportunities for small

to medium size companies interested in exporting their products to Mexico and South America. He then worked for the Commonwealth of Kentucky Agricultural and Commercial Trade Office in Guadalajara, Mexico for 8 years as a Latin American Trade Representative developing export opportunities in Mexico and South America.

Marcos is relatively new to non-profit work and immigration services. However, he found his calling working with Catholic Charities of Denver, first, as a shelter associate then as a supervisor for women's shelter services. After spending two years with CCD shelter ministry, he transferred to immigration services where he has been working as the Assistant Program Coordinator for the past year. His new role as CCD Immigration Services, TPS Workshop Coordinator will allow him to use his previous personal and professional experience to help newly arrived immigrants navigate the TPS application process.

Tracy Harper

Tracy Harper currently manages both the Temporary Protected Status Project and the Afghan Program at Catholic Charities of Denver, providing direct services and coordinating legal services workshops to provide affordable and meaningful legal services to new arrivals in Colorado. Tracy has been providing low-cost immigration legal services to refugees, asylees, and other immigrants in the Denver Metro Area since 2014. She is on her third year as a Chair of the Colorado chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) Access to Services Committee, bringing Colorado's nonprofit organizations and immigration attorneys together to address the legal needs of vulnerable and underserved immigrants in our state. Tracy received her law degree from Roger Williams University School of Law and her undergraduate degree from the University of Colorado - Boulder.