

David H. Wetmore
Senior Counsel

David H. Wetmore brings over two decades of high-level litigation, policy, and administrative law experience to his role as Senior Counsel at Grossman Young & Hammond. His practice focuses on litigating complex immigration cases in federal courts, immigration courts, and before the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA). David also advises white collar defense attorneys and criminal defense attorneys regarding the complicated intersection of criminal and immigration law, and he represents clients seeking to obtain benefits before U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and U.S. consular posts.

Prior to joining the firm, David served as the Chief Appellate Immigration Judge for the BIA, the highest administrative body interpreting U.S. immigration law. Appointed by the Attorney General in 2020, he adjudicated thousands of appeals and motions, including nationwide precedential decisions. He led the BIA through a major digital transformation that increased efficiency and culminated in the Board's most productive fiscal year in over 15 years.

David's government service spans the Department of Justice and the White House. As an Associate Deputy Attorney General, he led the immigration portfolio for two Deputy Attorneys General. In that role, he advised on interagency initiatives related to immigration, national security, and regulatory reform, and was the DOJ's representative to numerous high-profile policy coordinating committees. David also played a key role in shaping immigration policy during his service as an advisor to the White House Domestic Policy Council.

From 2009 to 2017, David served as an appellate litigator in the DOJ's Office of Immigration Litigation, authoring hundreds of federal court briefs and arguing over two dozen appeals in the federal circuit courts. Earlier in his career, he practiced at Sidley Austin LLP and Jenner & Block LLP, focusing on white collar defense and complex litigation. He served as a law clerk for federal judges on both the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. David has also taught as an adjunct professor at the Geoge Washington University Law School.

David holds a J.D., with High Honors, from the George Washington University Law School, where he was an Articles Editor of *The George Washington Law Review* and was elected to the Order of the Coif. He earned his B.A., *magna cum laude*, from Miami University, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, graduated from the Honors Program, and earned departmental honors in both political science and philosophy.

GROSSMAN YOUNG & HAMMOND
TRANSCENDING BORDERS℠

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Education

JD, The George Washington University Law School

BA, Miami University

Admissions/Memberships

- District of Columbia
- Supreme Court of the United States

U.S. Courts of Appeals

- U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit

U.S. District Courts

- U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Indiana
- U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan

Professional Activities

- Barrister, Edward Coke Inn of Court
- American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA)

Presentations

- Winning Strategies for BIA Appeals: Standards, Errors, and Preservation, AILA Web Seminar, May 19, 2026.

Blogs

- What Happened to Asylum Fees in 2026? February 10, 2026