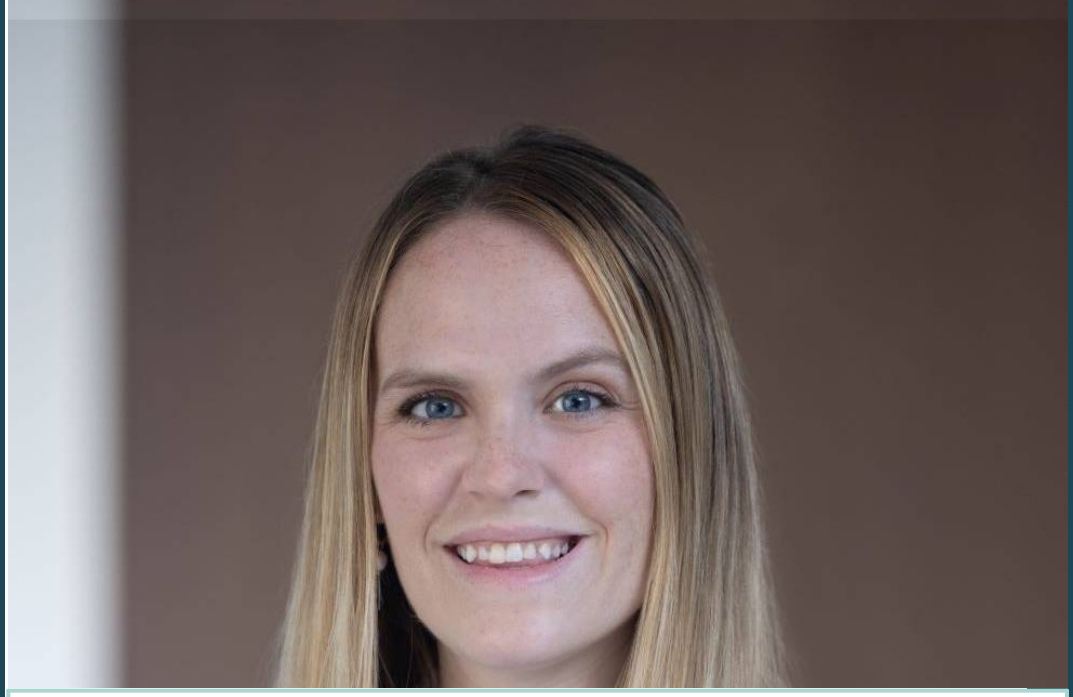


Emily Wolfford Colak

Attorney

Emily Wolfford Colak is an immigration attorney at Grossman Young & Hammond, where she focuses on employment-based immigration. She works with businesses, entrepreneurs, executives, investors, and individuals pursuing extraordinary ability and national interest petitions, including O-1, EB-1, EB-2 NIW, L-1A, and E-2 visas. Emily takes a hands-on approach to every case, helping clients evaluate their qualifications, understand complex eligibility requirements, and develop compelling petitions. From drafting detailed legal briefs and coordinating expert opinion letters to assembling complete application packages, she works to present each client's story as effectively as possible.

Before joining Grossman Young & Hammond, Emily spent a year at Grape Law Firm PLLC in Washington, D.C., where she focused primarily on O-1, EB-1A, and EB-2 NIW petitions, handling cases from intake through approval for entrepreneurs, executives, and individuals of extraordinary ability.

Prior to Grape Law Firm, Emily spent nearly eight years at Hergüner Bilgen Üçer Attorney Partnership in Istanbul, one of Turkey's leading international law firms. Her experience living abroad, where she learned Turkish and developed a passion for helping people navigate cross-border opportunities, shaped her path to immigration law. Her practice covered a broad range of cross-border regulatory matters, including U.S. sanctions, the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA), SEC regulations, digital assets, aviation, and intellectual property. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she advised clients on U.S. sanctions compliance and presented guidance to a major pharmaceutical company navigating rapidly evolving regulations. In addition to her legal practice, Emily played a key role in the firm's business development and marketing efforts.

Emily began her legal career as a Student Attorney with the Disability Rights Law Clinic at American University Washington College of Law. There, she represented clients in matters involving education and housing discrimination, powers of attorney, and advance directives, while also contributing to an American Bar Association resolution on Supported Decision Making.

Emily earned her Juris Doctor from American University Washington College of Law and her Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from Virginia Commonwealth University. She is admitted to practice law in New York and is fluent in Turkish.

GROSSMAN YOUNG & HAMMOND
TRANSCENDING BORDERS℠

Emily Wolfford Colak

Attorney

Education

- J.D., American University Washington College of Law, Washington, DC — May 2017. Certificate of Excellence in Legal Research, Citation, and Writing Competency; American University Business Law Review, Senior Staffer; Exceptional Pro Bono Honors 2017 Recipient
- B.S. in Criminal Justice, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA — May 2014. Phi Delta Phi Pre-Law Honor Society, Co-Founder; Pre-Law Society, President, Vice President, and Treasurer

Practice Focus

- Business immigration, including O-1, EB-1, EB-2 NIW, L-1A, and E-2 matters
- Petition drafting and case management — cover letters, expert letters, support letters, and full application packages
- Assessment of client achievements, company structures, and business plans to shape immigration strategy

Bar & Court Admissions

- New York State Bar, admitted July 2020

Professional Experience

- Immigration Attorney, Grape Law Firm PLLC, Washington, D.C. (August 2025–July 2026) — handled a wide range of business immigration matters, drafts and submits petition materials, performs client and company assessments, tracks cases from intake to approval, and contributes to business development through webinars, events, and client outreach initiatives.
- Legal Consultant / Business Development & Marketing, Hergüner Bilgen Üçer Attorney Partnership, Istanbul, Turkey (November 2017–August 2025) — researched and drafted memoranda on US sanctions, FCPA, SEC regulations, digital assets, aviation, IP, and conflicts of law; advised clients on US sanctions, including a presentation to a major pharmaceutical company during the COVID-19 pandemic; developed and negotiated proposals for foreign and Turkish clients; later expanded into firm marketing and leadership, composing the firm's quarterly newsletter and client alerts, managing the firm's CRM, preparing submissions for Legal 500, IFLR1000, and Chambers & Partners, managing the firm's LinkedIn presence, overseeing a team of five Business Development Associates, and advising the Executive Committee on strategic marketing investments.
- Student Attorney, Disability Rights Law Clinic, Washington, DC (August 2016–May 2017) — counseled clients on education and housing discrimination, powers of attorney, advance directives, and mental health services; taught a class on Supported Decision Making; contributed citations and edits to an ABA resolution on Supported Decision Making, later approved by the Commission on Law and Aging.

Notable Recognitions & Affiliations

- Certificate of Excellence in Legal Research, Citation, and Writing Competency (American University Washington College of Law)
- Exceptional Pro Bono Honors 2017 Recipient
- Co-Founder, Phi Delta Phi Pre-Law Honor Society (Virginia Commonwealth University)

Publications & Speaking Engagements

- Authored articles on cryptocurrency and ICOs during her tenure at Hergüner Bilgen Üçer

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Emily Wolfford Colak
Attorney

- Regular contributor to firm quarterly newsletters and client alerts
- Presented on US sanctions to a multinational pharmaceutical client during the COVID-19 pandemic

Community Involvement

- Interviewed clients and contributed to Supported Decision Making initiatives with the National Council on Disability while at the Disability Rights Law Clinic
- Served as an NCD grant interviewer for Quality Trust for Individuals with Disabilities