



## **Kari Ann Fonte, Esq.**

### **President, Fonte Immigration Firm, P.L.**

Board Certified by the Florida Bar as a Specialist in Immigration and Nationality Law

#### **EDUCATION:**

Florida State University, College of Law, Juris Doctor, *High Honors*, 1995

Florida State University, College of Arts and Sciences Bachelor of Arts, *Cum Laude*, 1992

Double major: Spanish, and Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Minor: French

#### **ADMISSIONS**

Admitted to practice by the Florida Bar

Board Certified by the Florida Bar as a Specialist in Immigration and Nationality Law

Admitted to the United States District Court, Southern District of Florida

American Immigration Lawyers Association, National & South Florida Chapter

#### **SUMMARY PROFILE**

Ms. Fonte is the President of Fonte Immigration Firm, P.L., an experienced immigration lawyer with more than 18 years of experience, Ms. Fonte is one of the top immigration lawyers in Florida, where she most recently served as the President of the AILA South Florida Chapter. She is a recognized speaker and commentator on U.S. immigration issues and counsels clients from across the world, with a particular emphasis on Latin America.

Her areas of practice include all aspects of U.S. Immigration and Nationality Law, including employment based and family based immigrant and nonimmigrant visas, adjustment of status, naturalization, asylum, removal, waivers, consular processing, and appeals; practice before the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Bureaus of Citizenship & Immigration Services, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and Customs and Border Protection; Administrative Appeals Office; U.S. Department of State; U.S. Department of Labor; Board of Alien Labor Certification Appeals; Immigration Court; and Board of Immigration Appeals.

#### **COMMITTEES**

*American Immigration Lawyers Association, Board of Governors 2011-12*

*American Immigration Lawyers Association, South Florida Chapter*

- President 2011-2012
- President-Elect 2010-2011
- First Vice President 2009-2010
- Second Vice President 2008-2009

- Secretary 2007-2008
- Board Member 2005-2007; 2012-2014
- Member of South FL AILA CLE Committee 2012-2014
- Member of USCIS Liaison Committee 2009-2014
- Chair of the Luncheon Committee 2010-2011
- Chair of Unlicensed Practice of Law Committee, 2005-2006
- Member of Department of Motor Vehicles Committee, 2005-2006

*The Florida Bar Immigration and Nationality Law Certification Committee*

- Appointments 2004 to 2007; 2007 to 2010; 2013-2016.
- Vice-Chair 2005-2006
- Chair 2006-2007

**PUBLICATIONS**

Kari Ann Fonte, "Bogota, Colombia," *The Visa Processing Guide and Consular Posts Handbook*, American Immigration Lawyers Association, 2005-2006, 2006-2007, 2007-2008, 2008-2009, 2009-2010 Editions.

Magda Montiel Davis and Kari Ann Woodward (now Fonte), "Bogota, Colombia," *The Visa Processing Guide*, American Immigration Lawyers Association, 1999 to 2005 Edition.

La Voz/Weston Voice monthly local newspaper immigration column, June 2003 to April 2005.

Magda Montiel Davis and Kari Ann Woodward (now Fonte), "Labor Certifications: Past, Present and Future," 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Immigration Law Update, Florida Bar CLE, 1996.

**APPEARANCES**

*Panelist*, "Introduction to Removal: Initial Proceedings," AILA's Annual Conference on Immigration Law, June 29, 2013 San Francisco, CA.

Discussion Leader, "VAWA and U Visas, representing victims of abuse," 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Immigration Law Update, South Florida Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, February 2013.

Panelist, "Being Worthy of U.S. Citizenship: Good Moral Character, Criminal Issues, and Naturalization." Central Florida AILA 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Conference, October 5, 2012.

Panelist, "Prosecutorial Discretion Update," South Florida AILA September 2012 Luncheon.

Panelist, "ABCs of Immigration Law for Newer Practitioners: Naturalization." August 9, 2012, AILA National Webinar.

Panelist, "Developments in Labor Certification Processing," 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Immigration Law Update, South Florida Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, Miami Beach, Florida, February 2012.

Panelist, "Naturalization Issues," Central Florida American Immigration Lawyers Association 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Conference, Clearwater, Florida October 21, 2011.

Panelist, "Other Defenses to Removal," American Bar Association, Commission on Immigration, *Pro Bono Training: The Essentials of Immigration Court Representation*, April 13, 2011, Miami, FL.

Panelist, "Labor Certification," South Florida AILA's 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Immigration Law Update, Miami Beach, FL, February 2011.

Speaker, "Immigration, Visas, and Career Options," 12<sup>th</sup> Annual *Strengthening and Valuing Latin@ Communities in Iowa* Conference, sponsored by the University of Iowa, October 15-16, 2010.

Panelist, "DOL Now" (Labor Certification), and "Strategies for Maintaining Residence and Complex Citizenship Issues," South Florida American Immigration Lawyers Association 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Immigration Law Update, Miami Beach, Florida, February 2010.

Panel Speaker: "Religious Workers," Central Florida American Immigration Lawyers Association 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference, Clearwater, Florida, October 16-17, 2009.

Invited Guest as Immigration Expert, Radio Caracol 2060 AM, August 2009.

Panel Speaker: "Naturalization Issues," South Florida American Immigration Lawyers' Association Monthly Luncheon, April 15, 2009.

Guest Speaker on the Practice of Immigration Law, Florida State University, College of Law, January 2009.

Speaker and Panel Speaker: "A Day in the Life of An Immigration Attorney," and Latin American Immigration Issues, *Humanities Symposium: Immigrants & Refugees: The Global Movement at our Door*, Viterbo University, La Crosse, Wisconsin, February 5-7, 2007.

Discussion Leader: H-1Bs: Don't Let the H-1B Crunch Catch You Off Guard. Practice Pointers and Legal Strategies to Ensure Your Client Gets a Visa Number, Young Lawyers Division Q & A Session, South Florida AILA Monthly Luncheon, January 17, 2007.

Panel Speaker: Advanced Issues in Citizenship & Naturalization, 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Immigration Law Update, FL Bar/AILA, Miami, FL, Feb. 2006.

Panel Speaker, Advanced Issues in Immigration Processing, hosted by Catholic Charities Legal Services, Miami, Florida, July 2005.

Panel Speaker, Dealing with Developments in Family Based Immigration, 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Immigration Law Update, Florida Bar/AILA CLE, Miami, Florida, February 2005.

Panel Speaker, Core Curriculum: Immigrant Visa Processing: Family, Special Immigrant & Diversity Visa Lottery, 2004 AILA Annual Conference on Immigration Law, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, June 2004.

Speaker, Foiling Removal -- Keeping Aliens Here, International Criminal Law Seminar, Criminal Law and International Law Sections of the Florida Bar, Miami, Florida, March 2004

Discussion Leader, AILA 2003 Fall CLE Conference, San Antonio, Texas, September 2003.

Speaker, Nonimmigrant Visas, Federal Bar Association Seminar, San Juan, Puerto Rico, June 2002.

Guest appearance, Immigration and You, Immigration Television Program, WLRN, Miami, Florida, February 14, 2002.

Immigration Chat with Montiel Davis and Woodward Kimber, @Univision.com, March 2001.

Speaker, Making a Living: Marketing Strategies, 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Immigration Law Seminar, Central Florida Chapter, American Immigration Lawyers Association, St. Petersburg, Florida, October 2000.

Panel Speaker, Ethics, 1999 AILA Annual Conference on Immigration Law, Seattle, Washington, June 1999.

Television Interview, Channel 23, Miami, Florida, July 10, 1997 (regarding pending Federal Court litigation).

## **RECOGNITION**

"AV" Rating in Martindale-Hubbell, highest level of legal ability and ethics, 2008 to present.

Bar Register of Preeminent Women Lawyers, 2008 to present (Martindale-Hubbell)

U.S. News & World Report, Best Law Firms (2013)

The Best Lawyers in America, 2005-2006, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2013 Editions.

Superlawyers Top Attorneys in Florida, 2012

Best Attorneys in Florida, 2012 & 2013

South Florida's Top Lawyers, 2010

South Florida Super Lawyers, 2010

South Florida's Best Lawyers, 2009

Florida's Top Lawyers, July 2008 and November 2004.

Top Lawyers, Lawdragon Magazine, August 2006

Book Award (highest grade in class), Immigration Law, Florida State University, Fall 1993.