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SAN FRANCISCO LAW



Younossi Law **X 7/**

The Business Behind Immigration

Born in Germany and raised in Afghanistan, Helena Younossi brings empathy and intellect to the ever-changing landscape of corporate immigration law.

former partner at the largest corporate immigration firm; an accomplished national speaker on corporate immigration law; a national authority, teacher, and lecturer of legal ethics; and a three-time recipient of the Wiley W. Manuel Award for Pro Bono Legal Services, Helena Younossi

has earned an enviable list of accolades. As an attorney and business advisor, Younossi has almost 30 years of immigration experience serving individuals as well as corporate clients across a wide spectrum of industries, from startups to Fortune 500 corporations such as Albertsons Companies, Inc., the second-largest supermarket chain in North America.

"You need a laser sharp understanding of highly technical regulations and the ability to breathe life into every one of them. Making government officials feel compelled to approve our filing is my specialty," says Younossi, when asked what qualities help make a successful immigration lawyer.

Younossi's namesake firm, Younossi Law, is comprised of an ethnically diverse, multilingual group of passionate and driven female professionals. Grounded in authenticity and fierce advocacy, Younossi Law combines the legal expertise of a large firm with the individual attention of a boutique firm.

Based in Silicon Valley, Younossi has experienced the technology revolution firsthand. "Being in Silicon Valley means existing on the cutting-edge of innovation," she says. "Any day a client can metamorphose into a global name. We have a front seat and an active role in making that happen." In 2005, for example, she filed the first immigration petition for a startup social media company. Today, that unknown startup is a household name and a dominating global company.

Over the years, Younossi has built a distinguished career, skillfully navigating her clients through economic booms, market crashes, and pandemics. The COVID-19 pandemic added new layers of complexity to an already taut labor mar-

ket, as companies around the world found it necessary to pivot their business with technology-forward

interfacing. The heightened need for technological savvy to compete in the marketplace has resulted in an increased demand for highly skilled foreign talent. For business immigration attorneys such as Younossi, this is both an opportunity as well as a challenge given the current immigration system.

"We rolled with the punches and innovated alongside our clients. COVID tested us as much as it tested our clients," she reflects.

Younossi remains grounded in the "why" of what she does. Her personal immigrant experience gives her a unique understanding of the challenges faced by clients who uproot everything to work and live in the U.S. Her holistic approach incorporates both strategic acumen and cultural intelligence to develop immigration road maps that are focused on successful outcomes and align with clients' goals and objectives.

"We recently celebrated another client win," Younossi shares, "and were touched by a note thanking us, saying, 'By getting me permanent residence, you have impacted not only my family, but many generations to come.""

www.younossi.com Ph: 650.737.7600