

## IMMIGRATION SCENARIOS

ANTOINE / RODRIGO

ANTOINE

My name is Antoine, from Canada. I am 28 years old, and, although I'm not a millionaire, I belong to a fairly wealthy family in Quebec. I attended college and law school in the United States on an educational visa, and am hoping to return to the U.S., where I feel that my skills will be better rewarded. Although I don't have family in the U.S, my family is good friends with the partners of an American law firm, who have offered me a lucrative job as a corporate attorney. They will go so far as to fill out all necessary paperwork and pay fees to make sure my move to the U.S. is in full compliance, and will wait as long as it takes for my green card to be approved.

RODRIGO

My name is Rodrigo, from Puebla, Mexico. I am 35 years old and single. My family moved to the state of Sonora when I was relatively young because of the increased economic opportunities provided by the industrial boom the state experienced in the nineties. At that time, many seemingly-stable factory jobs were available, and though the pay likely wouldn't exceed \$10/day, the family was able to get by without crushing financial hardship. These days, however, most of the factory jobs have moved to Southeast Asia, and the family increasingly relies on my brother Carlos, who has lived and worked most of his life in the United States, and is able to send occasional remittances to us and others in the extended family still living in Mexico. After many years, Carlos has finally been granted citizenship, and invited me to come to the United States to live with him and his family. Though Carlos's work in the U.S. is difficult, and he doesn't find it very rewarding, I would love to be able to provide financial support to our family in Mexico like he has in recent years.

## YUKA / SHAHID

### YUKA

My name is Yuka, from Japan. I am 70 years old, and my daughter married an American man, and has since become a U.S. citizen. I am from an upper-middle class family in Japan, but my husband recently died and I would like to move to the U.S. to live with my daughter's family. I have some anxiety about the prospect of immigrating, as I speak very little English and don't feel confident that I can adapt to a new culture and language at this stage of my life. Nonetheless, I dearly miss my daughter and am emboldened by the thought of spending the rest of my retirement with her and her husband.

### SHAHID

My name is Shahid, from Libya. I am 25 years old and single. My sister is a highly skilled engineer, and was hired by an American firm that arranged for her green card in 2010. The next year, the long-ruling Gaddafi regime was toppled by a combination of popular unrest and NATO military intervention spearheaded by the United States. Though I was initially filled with hope by these developments, the subsequent years have brought increasing unrest, with foreign countries recognizing a new Libyan government in the Eastern port town of Tobruk and Gaddafi loyalists setting up a rival government in the old capital of Tripoli. At times, conflict between these groups has come within a few dozen miles of my home, and as a result my sister is encouraging me with increasing frequency to try to apply to immigrate legally to the United States as a sibling of a lawful permanent resident.

## RENE / LUCY

### RENE

My name is Rene, from Haiti. I am 22 years old. Since a young age I have helped my family in agricultural work harvesting vetiver, a plant used to make expensive perfumes that are largely sold in Europe and the United States-notably, this experience does not qualify as skilled labor in U.S. immigration law. Though I have long desired to work in a higher paying field like tourism, my time harvesting vetiver has prevented me from receiving anything but the most rudimentary education. As a result, I speak only Haitian Creole, and not French, which is a minimum requirement for most middle-class jobs in Haiti. Unfortunately, my father passed away recently after tonsil cancer spread to the rest of his body, and now my family is in economic dire straits. I've decided that the best way to provide for them is to immigrate to the United States to look for work and to send money back home. Although I have no family or work contacts in the United States, I have heard rumors from other Haitians about agricultural work opportunities there.

### LUCY

My name is Lucy, from Nigeria. I am 27 years old, and after years of hard work and sacrifice, I am now highly skilled after finishing my degree with academic honors in computer programming from a university in Lagos. I would like to work in the United States, both because of the far greater compensation offered for tech work there, and because I have grown up exposed to lots of U.S. pop culture and would love to experience some of the things I've seen in sit-corns and heard about in pop music first hand. Nigeria's official language is English, as its colonial occupiers were the British, and, coming from a middle-class background, I speak English very articulately and with an accent befitting the professional class of my country. I don't have any family or contacts in the United States and therefore I haven't been able to receive a job offer.

CHEN / SANDRA

CHEN

My name is Chen, from China. I am 28 years old, and have extensive education and experience in pharmaceutical research. Although I don't have any family in the United States, I am interested in moving there because I have always been curious about American culture, and because the pay for my work is far better in the U.S than in China. Additionally, I recently made comments online that were very critical of the Chinese government and was subsequently visited by law enforcement officials at my home. With this in mind, I'm beginning to wonder if it will be safe for me to continue living in China. My research skills have enabled me to get a good job offer from a private firm in Virginia, but they are very busy and tell me that I have to arrange the paperwork myself. Times are tight for them also, and while they are offering me a job, they are unwilling to pay any legal fees to arrange for my move to the U.S.

SANDRA

My name is Sandra, from Colombia. I am 30 years old, and have just finished nursing school. Although I don't have any family in the United States, I have heard that there is a shortage of nurses in the United States, and I am interested in getting experience in the United States. I have even received a job offer from an American hospital that is willing to take care of any and all paperwork involved for me to immigrate legally, and pay for all legal fees. The position is immediate, however, so they are unwilling to wait more than a year for me to start.

## ALEJANDRO / EDUARDO

### ALEJANDRO

My name is Alejandro, from Honduras. I am 20 years old and single, and I am Eduardo's brother. My father left our family when I was very young to work in the United States. While he had initially planned to return after a few years, our family's financial situation required that he stay in the United States to continue sending remittances. After many years living in the U.S. far from me, my brother, and mother, my father started another family in San Antonio, Texas. The feelings of betrayal and loss we had upon receiving this information have created an emotional distance between my father and my family in Honduras. Now, after years apart, my father called to say that he has a green card (he is a Lawful Permanent Resident), owns his own company, and would like to invite Eduardo and me to come to work for him. Although I don't want to work for my father who I view as having abandoned me, I have begun to realize that I may need to leave Honduras for my own long-term safety. Government officials in the region I live are often complicit in narcotics trafficking to U.S. markets, and the high-risk, high-reward nature of the trade has brought violence and organized crime to my town in a way that affects many of the young men in my neighborhood. As a result, I have decided to try to immigrate legally to the U.S.

### EDUARDO

My name is Eduardo, from Honduras. I am 23 years old, and have a wife and young child. I am the brother of Alejandro. My father left our family when I was very young to work in the United States. While he had initially planned to return after a few years, our family's financial situation required that he stay in the United States to continue sending remittances. After many years living in the U.S. far from me, my brother, and mother, my father started another family in San Antonio, Texas. The feelings of betrayal and loss we had upon receiving this information have created an emotional distance between my father and my family in Honduras. Now, after years apart, my father called to say that he has a green card (he is a Lawful Permanent Resident), owns his own company, and would like to invite Alejandro and me to come to work for him. Though I still harbor some resentment for my father, I have come to accept his decisions and view this option as perhaps the only way to guarantee the economic well-being of my young family, as there are very few decent-paying job opportunities for someone with my skillset in the city where I live.

## GUADELUPE / ESTRELLA

### GUADELUPE

My name is Guadalupe, I am 32 years old, was born in Chiapas, Mexico, and have lived in the US for the last 10 years. I paid a smuggler to cross me and my brother through the desert west of Nogales, so I did not go through inspection or enter on a visa when I immigrated to this country. It was one of the hardest weeks of my life. I now have an 8-year-old daughter who was born in the US. I have been working two jobs under the table in Tucson, but am really afraid of being stopped by the police or having my workplace raided and being separated from my daughter. I would like to adjust my status and apply for a green card so I could feel more secure in the US and maybe take classes at the University of Arizona without having to pay out-of-country tuition (which is really high and inaccessible to me, because undocumented students are not able to apply for financial aid through FAFSA and cannot get in-state tuition) to have a more stable income to support my daughter.

### ESTRELLA

My name is Estrella, and I work with Guadalupe in Tucson. I am also from Chiapas, but I did not cross the border through the desert, but on a temporary work visa back in 2007. I decided to stay in Tucson beyond the length of my visa because a lot of my family also lives in Tucson, and I wanted to stay close to my mother, who is also undocumented, and help her as she got older. I also have a daughter, who is turning 10 this year and was born in Tucson. I have been going to a lot of Know Your Rights trainings here in Tucson, and am concerned about my family being separated. I would like to adjust my status so I can guarantee that I won't be separated from my daughter and mother.

DAVID

I am David, from England. I am 34 years old, a millionaire, and an internationally recognized soccer player. I have just signed a multi-million-dollar deal with a Los Angeles soccer team in an attempt to raise the popularity of soccer to a largely uninterested American audience. I have a criminal history in the United States, as I received a DUI and got into a bit of a scuffle with the arresting officer during a trip to Florida on a gap year from university. I also have a pending tax evasion case awaiting trial in the United Kingdom. Since I don't have family in the U.S, I need papers to come to the United States to live, work and travel as a soccer player.