

Leslie T. Ditrani

Principal, Ditrani Law, Boston | Northeastern University School of Law

Leslie T. Ditrani is as dedicated to her immigration clients as she is to the association that serves her practice area.

When not zealously representing her immigration clients, Ditrani has taken leadership roles in the New England chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association.

She also has worked diligently for the past seven years running the chapter's annual conference, which has turned into a nationally recognized event and major revenue stream for the association.

On a volunteer basis, Ditrani has worked for more than 10 years with the Cambridge Community Learning Center, which serves about 1,000 students a year — 90 percent of whom are immigrants — with classes that include English and preparation for

citizenship. She could often be found responding to attendees' immigration questions as well as holding clinics on immigration issues.

"We go to law school to help other people, and we take our paying clients because we have bills. I am very envious of my colleagues who work in the nonprofit field," she says. "I needed to work in for-profit to balance work and

life. I take on pro bono cases because it feeds my soul."

Ditrani says she became a lawyer to make a difference and have an impact on the lives of her clients, which immigration law achieves.

In her practice, Ditrani enjoys helping businesses find creative solutions to difficult immigration issues and connecting with families to work

through the maze of immigration. Early on in her career, Ditrani found navigating the bureaucracy of the immigration system a challenge. But now she enjoys that part of her practice because her experience has taught her the fastest way through the complex system.

On a personal and professional level, she often is frustrated with the government's failure to pass comprehensive immigration reform.

"Too many times I tell businesses they can't hire who they need or grow how they want to grow because our immigration system is broken," she says. "It doesn't make sense." **MLW**



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