

FOREWORD

Foreword for *The Immigration Formulae: Rules, Packaging and Strategy*

Wonder Victor Kutor's *The Immigration Formulae* provides a concise but detailed examination of obtaining legal status in the United States (US) for Ghanaians looking to immigrate or visit the US, as well as other African citizens, such as Nigerians, that travel to Ghana to undertake a US visa interview at the US Embassy in Accra, Ghana. The book is also of benefit to Ghanaians presently in the US who want to adjust their status from a visitor's visa to a Green Card (Permanent Residence). Finally, it is a valuable tool for anyone considering applying for a US visa or permanent residency.

This book is essential reading for anyone interested in visiting or immigrating to the US. It contains insights and a multitude of Exhibits discussing and showing the different steps, and accompanying forms, needed to navigate the cryptic laws of US immigration. It reviews the numerous Visa-types and residential statuses recognized in US law. It also digs deeper into what to expect and how to manage the different procedures or processes. Kutor covers a variety of topics such as the difference between a visa and the different types of status, including student and work visas, optional practical training that allows those on a student visa (F1) to gain work experience, how to apply for political asylum, and how to legally immigrate to the US. The risks and benefits, and the criteria for obtaining asylum status, is complex and many times applications or petitions are refused. The book clearly explains the law in this area such as the 'safe third country rule' in which an asylum application will be denied if the asylum seeker is currently in another country deemed to be safe.

The book also provides a broad perspective on how you can progress from visa status to a more permanent status. It explains the difference between asylum, refugee, and immigrant status. Immigrant status is the most secure of the different designations. A successful application gives the applicant permanent residency, popularly known as the 'Green Card.' Kutor explains the different grounds for such status—family members category, (parent-child; siblings), marriage, investment-based, company sponsorship, and self-petition. He explains these various categories and the requirements that must be met in order to increase the chances of success. Along with reviewing the substantive law behind the different statuses, the book does an excellent job of explaining the process of obtaining visas and permanent residency, which includes numerous legal procedures depending on the type of application or petition.

The book incorporates thirty-seven Exhibits that are essential to understanding the visa and immigration process. These include pictures of key documents, official statements and letters, necessary documentation, policies, and required forms. It is clear that the author is personally knowledgeable of the subject, enabling him to provide insight into the US immigration process as well as practical tips.

Kutor correctly notes the distinctiveness and complexity of immigration law. It should also be noted that immigration law is in a constant state of change. The evolving nature of immigration

law, especially under the Trump Administration, will require future editions of this book. Currently, gaining visa and immigration status has become much more restrictive. The next presidential administration could easily lighten those restrictions. This book allows its readers to strategize about current and future ways to enter the US. This book is essential to anyone interested in visiting or immigrating to the US. The strength of the book is its clear prose that is understandable to lawyers and non-lawyers. It is with pride that I recommend this book to anyone interested in US entry and immigration laws.

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By His Lordship Justice Emmanuel Yonny Kulendi
“The Immigration Formulae – Mr. Wonder Victor Kutor Esq.”

My first professional engagement with Mr. Wonder Victor Kutor occurred during his tenure as President of the Ghana School of Law, when he invited me to serve as a keynote speaker at one of the school’s annual programmes. What began as a formal interaction soon revealed a young lawyer of uncommon initiative, intellectual curiosity, and quiet yet rugged resolve. Over time, these qualities have remained evident, and they are now given concrete expression in this work.

Not long after his call to the Bar, Mr. Kutor informed me of his intention to author a book in the area of immigration. He observed, correctly, that despite the growing importance of immigration and visa-related matters, there existed a notable absence of structured, accessible resource material tailored to the realities faced by applicants and practitioners alike. In encouraging him to proceed and pledging my support, I did not anticipate that he would so promptly act on that resolve, nor that I would be invited to contribute this Foreword, an invitation I accepted with honor.

Immigration law today occupies a space of increasing relevance, not only to legal practice but to the common aspirations of ordinary citizens. The steady rise in international travel, often for purposes of education, professional development, and global exchange has brought immigration issues to the forefront of public activity. For the lawyers and non-lawyers, immigration processes often appear opaque, arbitrary and technical, often presenting a complex web of rules, policies, and jurisdiction-specific practices.

During my years in active legal practice, immigration work was almost exclusively navigated through experience, informal knowledge, and personal familiarity with administrative procedures at various embassies, high commissions, and consulates. There was little to no comprehensive literature capable of systematizing these processes or offering a coherent framework for understanding how different jurisdictions assess visa applications and immigration pathways. This absence was not merely academic; it affected access, predictability, and confidence in the system

and in many instances reinforced the perception that immigration outcomes were determined largely by the unarticulated and discretionary practices of foreign authorities.

It is against this background that this book stands out as both timely and necessary. The Immigration Formulae seeks to bring order and clarity to an area often characterized by uncertainty. With particular attention to major travel destinations for Ghanaian citizens, particularly the United States of America, the author carefully sets out the criteria, procedures, and evaluative considerations that inform immigration decisions. Where other jurisdictions adopt materially different approaches, these distinctions, in many instances, are clearly identified and thoughtfully explained.

Beyond its value as a reference for practitioners, the book is distinguished by its practicality. Drawing on lived experience, supported by relevant documentation and illustrative examples, it offers a step-by-step guide through application processes, visa categories, common indicators assessed by visa officers, reasons for refusal, and the consequences that may follow. In doing so, it empowers readers with knowledge, promotes informed decision-making, and demystifies processes that are often misunderstood.

This work also carries an implicit reminder of professional and personal responsibility. While it equips individuals with the tools to pursue lawful migration opportunities, it does so without promoting false expectations or guaranteeing outcomes. Instead, it underscores the importance of honesty, preparation, and respect for the legal frameworks of host countries.

In this regard, The Immigration Formulae performs a valuable service. It informs, guides, and clarifies, while leaving space for reflection on the broader implications of movement across borders. I commend Mr. Wonder Victor Kutor for his initiative, discipline, and contribution to an emerging and important field, and I trust that this book will serve as a reliable companion to applicants, practitioners, and all who seek to understand the complex but navigable world of immigration.

I would however be remiss not to acknowledge, at least in conclusion, a broader social reality that frames contemporary discussions on immigration in our part of the world. Across Ghana, as in

many parts of Africa, progressively increasing numbers of young people seek opportunities abroad, often with little intention of returning. Economic pressures and global disparities are undeniable, and the aspirations that drive migration are painfully apparent, yet, Ghana remains the one place we can truly call home, and it is incumbent upon each generation to contribute, in whatever measure it can, to the building of a society in which migration is a choice informed by opportunity, rather than an escape compelled by despair.

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