# Expert Opinion Letter (Confidential)

Analysis of Positional Requirements for EB-1

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# AREAS OF EXPERTISE

* International Business Law
* Immigration Law
* Education Law
* Public Law
* General Practice

# EMPLOYMENT

* Northeastern University School of Law, 2017- Present
* Boston University School of Law, 2022-Present
* Pennsylvania State University School of Law 2016-2017
* Albany Law School, 2015-2016
* Harvard Law School, 1995-1998
* Advocates, 2001-2014
* Petroleos de Venezuela, 1990-1995

# EDUCATION

* Northeastern University School of Law, J.D., 2001
* Harvard Law School, LL.M., 1995
* Universite Rene Descartes (Paris V), D.E.A., 1990
* Universidad Católica Andres Bello, Abogado, 1988

Dear Immigration Officer:

I write this letter in support of Juan Antonio Díaz Villasmil’s petition for permanent residency in the United States under the immigrant classification EB-1. He is an award-winning legal professional and human rights advocate who has risen to the very top of his field and has sustained international acclaim. Given his tremendous contributions to the legal and human rights sectors, his immigration will provide substantial benefits to the United States.

I am providing this opinion letter based on my experience in the field of Law. With regard to my academic background, I obtained my LL.B. with Cum Laude Honors from the Universidad Catolica Andres Bello in 1988, a D.E.A (LL.M.) in Public Law with honors from the University Rene Descartes (Paris V) in 1990, an LL.M. from Harvard Law School in 1995, and a Juris Doctor degree from Northeastern University School of Law in 2001.

I am currently a Law Professor at Northeastern University School of Law and Boston University School of Law, as well as an attorney in the General Practice of Law in Massachusetts after becoming licensed to practice in State Courts in 2002. I am also admitted to practice in New York (2015) and Pennsylvania (2016). These institutions are all fully accredited in the USA. I have additionally served as Director of Advocacy and Legal Services for Advocates, Inc, serving as in- house legal counsel for agency and clients. My professional career has been spent issuing opinions and advice at all levels of hierarchy for the institutions I have worked for, including Board of Directors and Senior Management. My opinions have been used by the state of Massachusetts – I was appointed advisor to the commission for the Reform of Welfare in 2011. I am also a speaker at Global Legal Skills Conferences in which I present my opinions to experts in the area of Law, most recently in Melbourne, Australia – December 2018. My expertise was recognized in 2011 when I was named “Top Woman in Law” and received an award by Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly. I also received the Roberto Goldschmidt Academic Excellence Award in 1995 granted by the Universidad Catolica Andres Bello. In addition to my career in academia, I have worked for over 30 years as an attorney.

As an expert in the field of law, I will conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the petitioner's qualifications, including both academic credentials and professional experience, to support his application for a National Interest Waiver (NIW).

Given my expertise in assessing qualifications, job roles, and professional accomplishments, I am qualified to offer an objective evaluation of the petitioner’s abilities and his eligibility for the National Interest Waiver As an expert in the field and professional evaluator, I am responsible for reviewing academic and experiential qualifications to form part of a candidate’s credential evaluation report, providing a detailed analysis of the academic background and occupational experience that a person has received outside the United States.

The documents that I reviewed to confirm she is well-positioned to advance the proposed endeavor include the following:

* + Curriculum Vitae
  + Diplomas/Academic Transcripts
  + Petition Letter
  + RFE Letter
  + Evidences for Criteria for Demonstrating Extraordinary Ability
    - Evidence of receipt of lesser nationally or internationally recognized prizes or awards for excellence
    - Evidence of published material about you in professional or major trade publications or other major media
    - Evidence that you have been asked to judge the work of others, either individually or on a panel
    - Evidence of your original scientific, scholarly, artistic, athletic, or business-related contributions of major significance to the field
    - Evidence of your performance of a leading or critical role in distinguished organizations
      * Recommendation Letters

Through the aforementioned academic and professional experiences, I have developed an expert knowledge on how to analyze, evaluate, and characterize job duties, responsibilities, qualifications, and expertise. Therefore, I am qualified to issue an opinion on the level and significance of Juan Antonio Diaz Villasmil’s ability.

I offer this letter as an independent expert, never having worked with Juan Antonio Díaz Villasmil. Recognizing his performance in the field of law and human rights advocacy, I render my opinion of his exceptional contributions, unique abilities, and the value he will have to the U.S. workforce. His expertise in advancing protections for vulnerable populations and his role in establishing judicial standards underscore his extraordinary abilities, making him an invaluable asset to the United States.

# Juan Antonio Diaz Villasmil’s Professional Profile

Juan Antonio Díaz Villasmil is a seasoned legal professional known for his extensive expertise in criminal and civil law, along with human rights advocacy. His work encompasses high-level judicial roles and advisory positions, underscoring his commitment to justice and the protection of individual rights. Through his leadership and dedication, he has made impactful contributions to legal systems and communities, focusing on advancing legal standards and supporting marginalized groups.

# Sustained National or International Acclaim

Juan Antonio Diaz Villasmil is a distinguished legal professional and human rights advocate with over three decades of experience in the judiciary and academia, recognized for his profound contributions to criminal law, gender violence prevention, and juvenile justice. As a former Superior Judge in Venezuela’s Criminal Judicial Circuit, he has made significant contributions to human rights protections and the administration of justice, establishing legal precedents that continue to impact Venezuelan society. His expertise is further reinforced by his active role in legal education, where he has taught, mentored, and inspired future legal practitioners. His work is marked by his commitment to advancing human rights and supporting vulnerable populations, earning him a reputation as a transformative figure in legal circles.

The sustained national and international acclaim of Juan Antonio Diaz Villasmil is reflected in his numerous recognitions and influential judicial rulings. His role in the Nissos Amorgos oil spill case gained international recognition as he presided over one of Venezuela’s most notable environmental rulings, ordering significant reparations and setting a legal precedent in

environmental protection. His coordination of the Gender Violence Circuit in Zulia positioned him as a leading figure in gender justice, establishing protocols that improved the judicial system’s responsiveness to gender-based violence. He has also been repeatedly awarded the Arminio Borjas Award by the Federation of Lawyers of Venezuela, an honor marking his exceptional contributions to law and justice.

Juan Antonio Diaz Villasmil’s acclaim extends into academia, where he has been a prominent figure at the National Experimental University Rafael María Baralt. His work as a professor and thesis juror has elevated human rights and juvenile justice studies in Venezuela, impacting legal education at a national level. His sustained recognition by the Venezuelan Supreme Court, the National Commission on Gender Justice, and the National Assembly underscores his far-reaching influence in advancing legal protections and rights for vulnerable communities, demonstrating a sustained and well-deserved national and international acclaim for his extraordinary abilities in law and human rights.

# Substantial Benefit to the United States

Juan Antonio Diaz Villasmil’s endeavor in the United States centers on advancing human rights education and implementing preventative measures to address gender-based violence and juvenile crime. His initiative focuses on creating comprehensive programs that educate communities, law enforcement, and judiciary personnel on human rights protections, aligning with national interests in promoting equality, safety, and justice. By collaborating with educational institutions and non- profit organizations, he plans to conduct workshops, develop training materials, and provide consulting services designed to foster greater understanding of legal protections and judicial practices. This endeavor is set to elevate the standard of human rights protections and ensure the most vulnerable populations receive the necessary safeguards, contributing to social stability and public welfare in the United States.

Juan Antonio Díaz Villasmil’s work is anticipated to generate a substantial impact across the legal and human rights fields, particularly given the pressing need for enhanced interventions in gender violence and juvenile crime. Domestic violence affects approximately 10 million Americans each year, with one in four women and one in seven men facing severe physical abuse from an intimate

partner (National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, n.d.). Youth crime also remains a critical issue, although the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) reports a 58% decrease in juvenile arrests from 2006 to 2019, highlighting strides in youth justice reform. Nonetheless, racial and ethnic minorities continue to encounter disproportionately high arrest rates. In 2019, 73.1 million youth under 18 made up 22 percent of the U.S. population. Though the youth population saw a 1 percent decrease over the last decade, it is projected to grow gradually through 2050. This data underscores both achievements in juvenile justice and the ongoing need for focused interventions to address inequality (OJJDP, 2023). His expertise in human rights and juvenile justice supports early intervention and education, with the potential to achieve measurable reductions in these areas. His contributions are poised to strengthen law enforcement and legal frameworks nationally, bolstering protective systems that benefit society at large.

Juan Antonio Diaz Villasmil’s endeavor not only advances the legal and human rights industries but also has significant implications for public safety, social welfare, and economic stability in the United States. By enhancing legal education and creating support networks that prioritize the protection of vulnerable groups, his programs will contribute to a healthier and more secure society. The broader implications of his work, which encourages systemic change in addressing and preventing violence, show that his endeavor is of substantial benefit to the United States, impacting not only individuals but also strengthening the societal foundation of justice and equality.

# Evidence of receipt of lesser nationally or internationally recognized prizes or awards for

**excellence**

Juan Antonio Díaz Villasmil has earned numerous prestigious awards that highlight his exceptional achievements in law and human rights in Venezuela. These honors, conferred by esteemed legal and governmental institutions, emphasize his dedication and impact on the legal landscape.

The **"Dr. Arminio Borjas Award" from the Federation of Lawyers of Venezuela, awarded in its First Class in 2012**, is a distinguished honor recognizing his influential contributions to the legal profession. Previously, he was also awarded the **Arminio Borjas Award in Second Class (2008) and Third Class (2003)**, a progression that reflects his sustained excellence and growing stature

in the legal field. This award series underscores his high ethical standards and legal expertise, making him a prominent figure in Venezuelan law.

In 2000, Juan Antonio Díaz Villasmil was awarded the “**Button of Honor to Merit” by the Federation of Lawyers of Venezuela**, further solidifying his reputation as a respected legal professional. This honor is typically awarded to individuals who demonstrate exceptional service and influence within the legal profession, marking an early recognition of his commitment to justice and dedication to the field.

Juan Antonio Díaz Villasmil also received the **"Order to Citizen Merit" from the Legislative Council of Zulia State** in 2013. This award recognized his contributions to justice and legal integrity within the community, particularly his impact as a judicial official in fostering a fair and effective legal system

Additionally, his work on juvenile justice reform led to a **commendation from Venezuela’s National Assembly for his role in revising the Organic Law for the Protection of Children and Adolescents**. This legislative change was instrumental in reforming policies for adolescent criminal responsibility, highlighting his dedication to juvenile rights and his influence on national legal reform (National Assembly of Venezuela, 2024).

In 2016, Juan Antonio Díaz Villasmil was honored by the **Supreme Court’s National Commission on Gender Justice with a diploma recognizing his leadership as a regional coordinator in cases of violence against women**. This accolade acknowledges his commitment to gender justice and his substantial impact on strengthening protections for vulnerable populations.

These awards collectively affirm Juan Antonio Díaz Villasmil’s sustained national recognition, demonstrating his dedication to justice, legal reform, and human rights advocacy in Venezuela. His consistent receipt of these prestigious honors provides compelling evidence for his extraordinary ability and aligns with the EB1 criterion of nationally recognized awards for professional excellence.

# Evidence of published material about the petitioner in professional or major trade

**publications or other major media**

Juan Antonio Díaz Villasmil's contributions and impact within the legal and human rights sectors are notably recognized and documented across various professional and major trade publications, reflecting his pivotal role in advancing justice and advocating for vulnerable populations.

His social media performance report summarizes the activities and engagements on the Instagram account @juandiazvillasmil over a 90-day period, from November 9, 2023, to February 6, 2024. Titled “Comprehensive Migration Assistance” and dated February 7, 2024, the report outlines key metrics such as the account’s reach and interactions with various types of content, including posts, stories, and reels. With 1,680 content interactions, 717 post interactions, and 885 interactions specifically on reels, the report highlights notable engagement from audiences primarily located in Venezuela, the United States, Colombia, Chile, and Brazil. Demographic insights indicate that the majority of followers are women aged 35-44. The report concludes with a positive outlook on brand recognition and achievement of objectives through Instagram interactions.

These publications collectively highlight Juan Antonio Díaz Villasmil's multifaceted impact on the legal and human rights industry, ranging from his advocacy for justice to his commitment to protecting vulnerable populations through significant judicial reforms. His work has not only strengthened the legal framework for human rights protections but also positioned him as a pioneering figure on the international stage in human rights and legal integrity.

# Evidence that the petitioner has been asked to judge the work of others, either

**individually or on a panel**

Juan Antonio Díaz Villasmil has served as a judge and evaluator in various academic and professional settings, further affirming his expertise and standing in his field. He was repeatedly engaged by the College Monseñor de Talavera to teach and assess advanced legal and commercial law topics, contributing his professional services from 1992 to 1993. His role involved delivering courses on public enterprises, foundations of law, and commercial law, demonstrating his knowledge in fundamental legal subjects at an academic level.

In addition to his teaching contributions, he participated as an evaluator in the postgraduate program at the National Experimental University "Rafael María Baralt." Notably, he acted as a qualifying jury member for two master’s theses, including a study on workplace harassment’s impact on employee productivity, alongside esteemed faculty members Professors Lisbeth Faria and Estrella Orozco, and another project examining the influence of information technology on decision-making in environmental sanitation companies, in collaboration with Professors Ukujat Avila and Yaritza Farias. These roles required not only expertise in human resources management and administrative practices but also the ability to objectively assess complex research contributions.

Juan Antonio Díaz Villasmil also chaired a commission to review and update the general regulations of the postgraduate program at the National Experimental University "Rafael María Baralt" from 2006 to 2008. This position involved overseeing regulatory reforms to improve academic standards and program effectiveness, reflecting his significant influence in academic governance. As a founding member of the research line on international human rights defense, he contributed to scholarship published in the institution’s "Social Sciences" journal, showcasing his commitment to human rights advocacy at an academic level.

Additionally, he served as a guest lecturer and academic coordinator in human resources law and judicial management courses at prominent Venezuelan institutions, including the Bolivarian University of Venezuela. His responsibilities included delivering courses such as “Criminal Procedure” within judicial specialization programs, further emphasizing his skill in legal education and his role as a trusted academic resource within Venezuelan higher education.

His qualifications as a retired Superior Judge, partnered with the Venezuelan Savings and Loans Bank for Judges since 2013, further highlight his prominence and enduring influence within the Venezuelan judicial sector.

These engagements collectively serve as evidence of Juan Antonio Díaz Villasmil's extraordinary ability and stature, showcasing his frequent selection to judge the work of others in both academic and legal contexts. This experience aligns with the EB1 criterion for evidence of having been sought

after to evaluate the work of others, solidifying his professional recognition and respected expertise in his field.

# Evidence of your original scientific, scholarly, artistic, athletic, or business-related contributions of major significance to the field

Juan Antonio Díaz Villasmil has made numerous original contributions of major significance to the field, particularly in human rights, criminal justice, and gender-based violence prevention, as demonstrated across various key projects and documented achievements.

# Implementation of Gender-Based Violence Prevention:

* + As a coordinator for the Gender Violence Circuit in the Zulia state of Venezuela, Juan Antonio Díaz Villasmil led the development of protocols and methodologies that directly supported women’s rights and enhanced protective measures for victims. His work contributed to the establishment of a system where interdisciplinary support teams provided specialized care and assessment, an approach acknowledged by the Supreme Court of Venezuela, as indicated in the formal recognition from the National Commission on Gender Justice.

# Landmark Environmental Case – Nissos Amorgos:

* + His ruling in the high-profile Nissos Amorgos case marked a critical achievement, involving the imposition of a substantial compensation mandate for environmental damage caused by an oil spill. His decision not only demonstrated his comprehensive expertise in environmental justice and legal repercussions for ecological harm but was also referenced internationally, reinforcing the ruling’s global importance. The International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds (IOPC) and other legal publications have highlighted this case, recognizing its significance in establishing precedents for compensation and accountability in environmental disasters.

# Academic Contributions to Human Rights:

* + Juan Antonio Díaz Villasmil’s contributions extend into academia, where he has acted as a juror for postgraduate theses on human resources and management at the National Experimental University "Rafael María Baralt." His insights helped shape emerging scholars' work on workplace and technological impacts, enhancing the

academic discourse on management sciences. His involvement reflects his expertise and the respect he commands in academic settings, substantiating his major influence in the legal education sector.

# Influential Advocacy in Juvenile Justice Reform:

* + As a specialized legal advisor for juvenile criminal matters, he collaborated with Venezuela's National Assembly on the legislative reform of the Organic Law for the Protection of Children and Adolescents. This reform improved juvenile justice procedures, advocating for balanced interventions that align with international human rights standards. His input was recognized as instrumental, helping shape policies that more effectively support at-risk youth.

# Public Advocacy and Lectures on Women’s Rights:

* + In 2015, he was invited as a speaker by the Venezuelan Supreme Court for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, presenting on civil compensation for gender violence victims. This engagement demonstrated his stature as a human rights advocate and his expertise in legal approaches to compensating and protecting victims, highlighting his influence in national legal circles.

These contributions substantiate Juan Antonio Díaz Villasmil’s extraordinary ability and lasting impact in his field, meeting the EB1 criterion for original scientific and scholarly contributions of major significance.

# Evidence of performance of a leading or critical role in distinguished organizations

Juan Antonio Díaz Villasmil has demonstrated an extraordinary ability and leadership in various distinguished roles within the judiciary and academic institutions, contributing significantly to human rights and legal fields in Venezuela. Serving as a **Senior Judge on the Court of Appeals** in the Adolescent Section with jurisdiction over Crimes of Violence Against Women for the Zulia Judicial District, he played a crucial role in pioneering approaches to gender-based violence prevention and legal protections for vulnerable populations. His leadership in this role encompassed overseeing complex cases and implementing effective protocols to support victims, which directly influenced judicial practices in this area. His tenure as a **Judge of First Instance** in Zulia’s Criminal Judicial Circuit

further solidified his reputation as a legal authority, where he presided over high-profile cases, including the internationally recognized **Nissos Amorgos** environmental case. His judgments in such landmark cases illustrate his critical impact on the legal landscape.

Beyond his judicial responsibilities, Juan Antonio Díaz Villasmil’s role as the **Coordinator of the Judicial Circuit for Crimes of Violence Against Women** saw him spearheading initiatives to enhance judicial efficiency and victim support systems. This position involved collaborating with multidisciplinary teams and formulating practices that reinforced the judicial system’s responsiveness to gender-based violence. His work in this capacity, recognized by the Venezuelan Supreme Court’s National Commission on Gender Justice, highlights his authoritative role in advancing legal standards and protecting human rights within the judicial framework.

His contributions extend into academia as well, where he has served as a **Professor and Juror** at the National Experimental University "Rafael María Baralt." His academic work, particularly as a juror for postgraduate theses, reflects his influence in shaping legal thought and advancing research on workplace dynamics, technology in decision-making, and human resources. His publications, including contributions to the **Social Sciences journal** on international human rights, highlight his dedication to academic discourse in human rights law. Furthermore, his **Doctoral thesis** on "Illegal Evidence in Criminal Proceedings," published at the University of Zulia, underscores his scholarly influence in criminal law and his dedication to exploring procedural justice.

Collectively, these roles across distinguished institutions demonstrate Juan Antonio Díaz Villasmil’s exceptional legal acumen and commitment to the judicial and academic communities. His leadership and scholarly work underscore his extraordinary ability and place him as a pivotal figure in Venezuelan legal reforms and human rights advocacy, meeting the EB1 criterion for evidence of leadership and critical roles within distinguished organizations.

Furthermore, the recommendation and support letters for Juan Antonio Díaz Villasmil offer clear and persuasive evidence of his exceptional success and leadership in shaping critical initiatives within the legal and human rights sectors. These endorsements, provided by colleagues, peers, and other professionals familiar with his work, highlight his expertise, innovative approaches, and significant contributions to advancing justice and protecting vulnerable populations.

## *Letter from Mary Guanipa, PhD, Curriculum Designer and Teacher Trainer:*

Dr. Mary Guanipa emphasizes Juan Antonio Díaz Villasmil’s vital contributions to human rights education and his commitment to promoting democratic values, especially for vulnerable populations such as women, children, and migrants. She highlights his achievements in the Zulia region, where he developed training and collaboration protocols with police and public entities, focusing on juvenile justice and violence prevention. She underscores that his research and advocacy efforts have positively influenced regional and national policies, making his work indispensable in defending democratic principles and advancing human rights in Venezuela.

## *Letter from Alberto Jurado, CEO of ALC Penal:*

Dr. Alberto Jurado details Juan Antonio Díaz Villasmil’s critical advisory role in criminal law and governance at ALC Penal, where his expertise in procedural strategy has led to significant case successes. Juan Antonio Díaz Villasmil’s influence has extended the firm’s reach in areas like gender violence and migration, with a notable increase in successful immigration cases due to his contributions. Dr. Jurado affirms that Juan Antonio Díaz Villasmil’s leadership and specialized knowledge not only benefit ALC Penal but also enhance the legal field by establishing procedural models and advocacy strategies that are respected nationwide.

## *Letter from Doris Cruz López, Senior Criminal Judge and Professor:*

Dr. Doris Cruz López highlights Juan Antonio Díaz Villasmil’s exemplary tenure as a criminal judge, particularly in his coordination of the Gender Violence Circuit in Zulia. She details how his rulings set new precedents by incorporating international human rights standards, impacting Venezuela’s judiciary. She affirms that his judicial and academic work has reinforced human rights protections nationally, proving his critical role in advancing Venezuela’s legal system.

## *Letter from Gicela Garrido, PhD, Community Health Worker:*

Dr. Gicela Garrido discusses Juan Antonio Díaz Villasmil’s academic influence at the Rafael

María Baralt University, where his guidance in curricular design and his oversight of non- discriminatory practices have transformed the university’s human rights education. She highlights that his research and public speaking on human rights education have fostered a culture of respect and advocacy in Venezuelan society, reinforcing the national importance of his work.

## *Letter from Gyomar Perez Cobo, Law Professor and Public Defender:*

Dr. Gyomar Perez Cobo praises Juan Antonio Díaz Villasmil’s comprehensive legal expertise, particularly his coordination of judicial processes in gender violence cases. His proactive approach led to increased educational initiatives in youth detention centers and robust partnerships with community organizations. Dr. Perez asserts that Juan Antonio Díaz Villasmil’s work has national significance by reducing gender violence and juvenile crime, positioning him as a pivotal figure in advancing social justice in Venezuela.

## *Letter from Jesús Antonio Vergara Peña, Director of the Federation of Bar Associations of* Venezuela:

Dr. Jesús Antonio Vergara Peña emphasizes Juan Antonio Díaz Villasmil’s influential role in cases of national significance, such as the Nissos Amorgos environmental case, which set a critical precedent in ecological law. Dr. Vergara highlights Juan Antonio Díaz Villasmil’s multiple awards from the Bar Federation, affirming that Juan Antonio Díaz Villasmil’s work exemplifies Venezuela’s highest standards in criminal law and human rights, proving his indispensable role in protecting the nation’s legal and environmental integrity.

***Letter from Jesús Enrique Rincón, President of the Academy of Legal and Political Sciences of Zulia:*** Dr. Jesús Rincón describes Juan Antonio Díaz Villasmil as a resolute judge whose performance under adverse conditions, such as Venezuela’s electrical rationing, has been exceptional. He underscores Juan Antonio Díaz Villasmil’s ability to maintain fairness and uphold the rule of law during challenging times, marking his contributions as vital to Venezuela’s justice system and proving his resilience and commitment to national legal standards.

## *Letter from Leany Araujo, PhD, Retired Senior Criminal Judge:*

Dr. Leany Araujo testifies to Juan Antonio Díaz Villasmil’s leadership as a judge, emphasizing his role in designing police training and leading national conversations on human rights. She affirms that his tenure as a facilitator for Venezuela’s judiciary provided a robust educational model, proving that his knowledge and mentorship are crucial for strengthening judicial practices and fostering respect for human rights across the country.

## *Letter from Luisa Rojas González, PhD, Legal Consultant at the University of Zulia:*

Dr. Luisa Rojas details Juan Antonio Díaz Villasmil’s proactive leadership in gender violence cases, implementing trend-tracking mechanisms to monitor crime and promote preventative measures. Dr. Rojas asserts that his educational initiatives in human rights have had a lasting impact on the legal landscape, affirming his role as an essential advocate for democratic and constitutional values.

## *Letter from Mario Torres Carrillo, President of the Zulia State Bar Association:*

Dr. Mario Torres commends Juan Antonio Díaz Villasmil’s contributions to the Zulia State Bar Association, noting his work in organizing human rights events and training programs. He emphasizes that Juan Antonio Díaz Villasmil’s collaboration with legislators in drafting gender laws has directly strengthened the national legal framework, proving his indispensable role in advancing Venezuelan legal standards.

## *Letter from Eduardo A. Amesty, Esq., at Braam, P.L.L.C.:*

Eduardo A. Amesty highlights Juan Antonio Díaz Villasmil’s extensive judicial experience in Venezuela, including his roles as Superior Judge and Court of First Instance Judge in Zulia’s Criminal Judicial Circuit. Eduardo A. Amesty commends Juan Antonio Díaz Villasmil’s profound legal knowledge, particularly in cases involving violence against women, and his dedication to safeguarding individual rights. Eduardo A. Amesty emphasizes that Juan Antonio Díaz Villasmil’s exceptional legal acumen and ethical standards have not only advanced the legal profession in Venezuela but also positioned him as an ideal candidate for the US Law LLM program, with the potential to make significant contributions to legal academia and practice in the United States.

## *Letter from Minerva González de Gow Lee, Retired Senior Criminal Judge:*

Minerva González de Gow Lee details Juan Antonio Díaz Villasmil’s dedication to human rights, particularly in gender violence and juvenile justice. She highlights his impactful work as a Superior Judge in Zulia’s Court of Appeals, where his rulings set new precedents in human rights protections and juvenile justice reforms. She affirms that his role in developing policies to protect vulnerable populations has had a substantial national impact on Venezuela’s judicial system, reinforcing democracy and legal protections for women and children.

## *Letter from Yasmira Alaña, PhD, Professor at Rafael María Baralt University:*

Yasmira Alaña describes Juan Antonio Díaz Villasmil’s academic and professional contributions as a professor and researcher at Rafael María Baralt University. His expertise in constitutional and criminal law, particularly in human rights protections, has shaped educational policies and influenced the development of legal standards in Venezuela. She emphasizes that his professional achievements, including his role in judicial coordination for gender violence cases, are of national importance, contributing to social stability and the promotion of human rights in Venezuela.

## *Letter from Yoleida Serrano, Doctor in Political Science:*

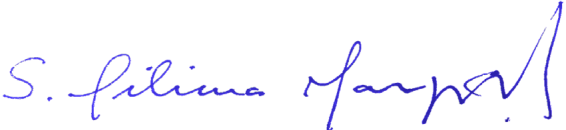
Yoleida Serrano underscores Juan Antonio Díaz Villasmil’s lifelong commitment to eradicating violence and promoting human rights through education and judicial reforms. She highlights his contributions to youth crime prevention and his advocacy for gender equality, noting his work in developing anti-discrimination policies and conducting public outreach. She affirms that his initiatives have had a transformative effect on Venezuela’s social landscape, addressing urgent national issues and advancing public welfare.

These letters collectively showcase Juan Antonio Díaz Villasmil’s extraordinary contributions and leadership in human rights advocacy and judicial reform, affirming his national impact and indispensable role in advancing legal and social protections in Venezuela.

# Conclusion

Juan Antonio Díaz Villasmil has successfully met five of the ten criteria for demonstrating extraordinary ability, as required by USCIS for the EB-1A classification, clearly demonstrating his sustained national and international acclaim in the fields of law and human rights advocacy.

The comprehensive examination of Juan Antonio Díaz Villasmil's professional journey underscores a profound and exceptional aptitude within the legal and human rights fields, unequivocally satisfying multiple criteria set forth by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for classification as an Alien of Extraordinary Ability. His remarkable career spans decades of impactful work in judicial reform, human rights advocacy, and legal education, marked by nationally recognized rulings, such as the Nissos Amorgos environmental case, and transformative contributions to gender violence prevention and juvenile justice systems. His extensive expertise has positioned him as a highly respected authority in Venezuela and internationally, particularly within critical areas such as human rights protections, environmental law, and legal systems improvement.

Juan Antonio Diaz Villasmil’s acclaim includes significant academic influence, with key roles in curriculum development and mentoring future legal professionals at prestigious institutions. His work has not only set legal precedents but has also actively shaped policies and educational programs that protect vulnerable populations and reinforce democratic principles, exemplifying his extraordinary impact on the field. Each achievement, documented in recommendation letters, awards, and judicial records, underscores his unwavering dedication to advancing justice and positions him as an invaluable asset in the United States.

S. Liliana Mangiafico, J.D. LL.M.

Professor,

Northeastern University School of Law October 30, 2024

# References:

* [https://www.uscis.gov/working-in-the-united-states/permanent-workers/employment-](http://www.uscis.gov/working-in-the-united-states/permanent-workers/employment-) based-immigration-first-preference-eb-1
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