Immigration law has become an important topic in Virginia in recent years. For the attorney who does not specialize in immigration law, various resources can help in dealing with this topic. Many of the resources referenced in this column can be found at local academic law or public law libraries. Locate the one closest to you at: http://www.courts.state.va.us/courtadmin/library/virginia_public_lib.html.

Virginia CLE
Virginia CLE (Continuing Legal Education) (http://www.vacle.org) offers several publications that cover immigration law.

The *Virginia Immigration Law Handbook* by Thomas J. Fadoul Jr. and Florian Hauswiesner (3d ed. 2008) covers general principles for topics including: non-immigrant (temporary) visas; obtaining permanent residence status; citizenship and naturalization; deportation, exclusion, and removal; employer sanctions; and unfair employment practices. It includes a useful appendix to federal and state agency contacts.

The following titles are issued as downloadable formats:

*Immigration Law for the Main Street Lawyer I, II, & III* (2010) is a series of audio replays of three live telephone seminars that were held in April 2010. Part One provides an introduction to the practitioner to the basics of immigration status. It identifies “red flag” issues for practitioners to recognize, such as driving, working and living environment. The program also emphasizes ethical conduct in advising foreign nationals about immigration consequences. Part Two covers immigration employer compliance, and includes actual and constructive knowledge, enforcement risk management, and best practices to keep your employers safe from criminal and civil liability. Part Three is geared towards the criminal lawyer. It is a primer that identifies the most common areas of immigration risk, and discusses the most current developments in immigration consequences of criminal activity. In addition, this seminar provides what lawyers need to know about immigration detainers, in light of both Virginia and federal law.

*Immigration Issues for Business Lawyers — Even Businesses that Employ No Foreign Nationals Must Comply* (2010) is an online video replay of a live seminar session from the 28th Annual Business Law Seminar: Back to Basics — Mastering the Fundamentals in Four Important Areas, held in September 2010. The topics covered in this basic program include: recent developments in enforcement affecting businesses; effective I-9 compliance programs; and the rise of E-Verify, an Internet-based system to check employees’ identities and work authorization.

*Immigration Worksite Enforcement — Employers Beware: The Iceman Cometh* (2009) is an online video replay of a live webcast from August 2009. The program covers what the government expects of employers, and how it helps employers comply with the law, including E-Verify, the Social Security Number Verification Service, and best practices for all employers. In addition, the seminar covers how companies can set up immigration compliance programs (I-9 employment verification), and how companies should respond to ICE inspection or investigation, or a Department of Justice discrimination investigation.

Other Virginia CLE topic course handbooks covering employment, construction and criminal law cover immigration issues as well.

**Treatises**
The American Immigration Lawyers Association publishes excellent resources available at http://www.ailapubs.com, including:

*Kurzban’s Immigration Law Sourcebook*, currently in its 12th edition, is the bible of immigration law. Reviewers consistently rate it among their top choices for initiating immigration research.


*Forms & Fundamentals* (2011–12) provides practice pointers and annotated checklists for completing some of the most commonly used forms.

Other important titles include: *Immigration Procedures Handbook* (West, 2011, updated annually) is a detailed sourcebook that contains explanations of how, where, and why to present specific types of petitions and applications under today’s immigration laws. This book also includes analysis of current law to assist in determining the most effective method of proceeding with a case. In addition, this treatise covers recent changes that affect immigration practice and procedure.

Resources continued on page 62
**Resources continued from page 60**

*Immigration Law and Procedure: Desk Edition* (LexisNexis, 1980, updated twice a year) is a one-volume desk reference covering all the key areas of immigration law — including institutions of immigration law; admission, parole and removal; and nationality and citizenship. The reference also contains appendices with useful forms and other practical information. The material is taken from a much larger and comprehensive, twenty-one-volume treatise titled *Immigration Law and Procedure* (LexisNexis, 1988, continuously updated).

*Immigration Law and Defense, 3rd Edition* (West, 1988, updated twice a year), written by the National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild, provides a history of immigration legislation and the changing nature of immigration law. It also contains details on citizenship and naturalization, and offers guidance on eligibility for permanent residence, adjustment of status, and inadmissibility.

**Virginia State Bar Sources**

According to the Virginia State Bar (VSB), immigration consultant fraud occurs “when an individual without authority either as a licensed attorney or as a Board of Immigration Appeals accredited non-lawyer representative, offers to provide services related to procuring an immigration benefit for an individual, family, or business.” They typically charge fees for their services, but are not authorized to give legal advice. Victims of this type of fraud include undocumented aliens, business owners, citizens, and legal permanent residents.

The VSB Standing Committee on Unauthorized Practice of Law provides immigrants throughout Virginia with the information necessary to select an authorized immigration lawyer and/or representative. By providing this service, they hope to decrease the number of immigrants who fall victim to this type of unauthorized practice of law. The public can learn more about immigration fraud and acquire free informational brochures in English, Spanish, Korean, and Vietnamese at http://www.vsb.org/site/public/immigration-fraud.

Benjamin T. Almoite is a librarian at the Virginia State Law Library, a division of the Supreme Court of Virginia, in Richmond.