



MAY 2021

"Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced." – James Baldwin

At The Nieves Law Firm, we take advantage of every opportunity we get to develop our team and our capabilities. On April 7th, we hosted an Immigration 101 lesson with immigration attorney Kevin J. Stewart and the entire Nieves Law Firm team. Sometimes our work involves immigration whether it is for an active case or post-conviction relief. This lesson gave our attorneys and staff the opportunity to ask any questions they had about how immigration statuses can be impacted by criminal charges and it allowed our team to get an even better understanding of how inter-related immigration and criminal defense are. We are thankful for the lesson as we covered a variety of topics that we can utilize to better serve our clients who are facing potential immigration consequences in the future.

On May 1st, founding attorney Jo-Anna Nieves presented at the WESTOP NorCal 2021 Student Leadership Conference, which provides educational opportunities on behalf of low-income students, first-generation students, and those with disabilities. The theme for the conference was "Surviving and Thriving – Defying Adversity with Courage." Jo-Anna spent her time teaching high school seniors and college students about their personal brand. Specifically, Jo-Anna worked with the attendees on pinpointing personal characteristics they can use to influence how they produce deliverables and how they present themselves in class, at work, and the community at large.

Finally, as the fight for justice in and out of the courtroom increases for causes like Black Lives Matter, Stop AAPI-Hate and other efforts aimed at confronting and eradicating racism and xenophobia, we thought it was important to share a recent article by the Young African Leadership Initiative that outlines 5 ways you can be an ally to marginalized groups. We've listed the top 3 below:

- Be intolerant of intolerance. Are you willing to confront derogatory and hateful speech online? What about in person? What if the person is a friend or relative? The risk of staying silent is sending the message that discrimination and intolerance are values that you are willing to tolerate.
- Be willing to accept correction. Even the most well-meaning people make mistakes and have misunderstandings about others. When someone points out your errors, offer a sincere apology and be ready to learn from the experience. It will earn you much more respect than responding with defensiveness or anger.
- Start paying attention to what you say. Most people already know to avoid generalizations and stereotypes. But most of us are still guilty of using language that causes offense even if we don't mean to. Commonly used words like "gay," "crazy" or "lame" are actually exclusionary, offensive and derogatory.

To learn more or read the rest of the article, [click here](#).

As usual, we would like to thank you for your support of our firm. If you know anyone who could use the information covered in these newsletters, feel free to forward it along to them and encourage them to sign up at www.thenieveslawfirm.com. If you have any questions about this month's featured topic, or anything else related to criminal defense, please contact us today at [510.879.7549](tel:510.879.7549).

Stay healthy and safe.

Thank you,

Jo-Anna Nieves



Jo-Anna Nieves
Founding Attorney

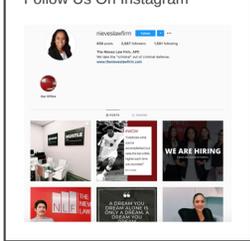


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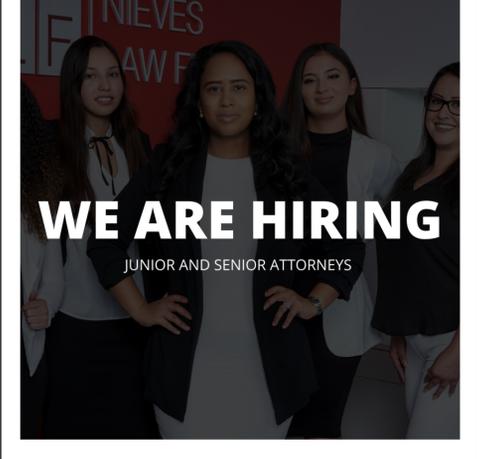
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160 Franklin St. Ste. 210
Oakland, CA 94607
(510) 949-8736
info@thenieveslawfirm.com

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