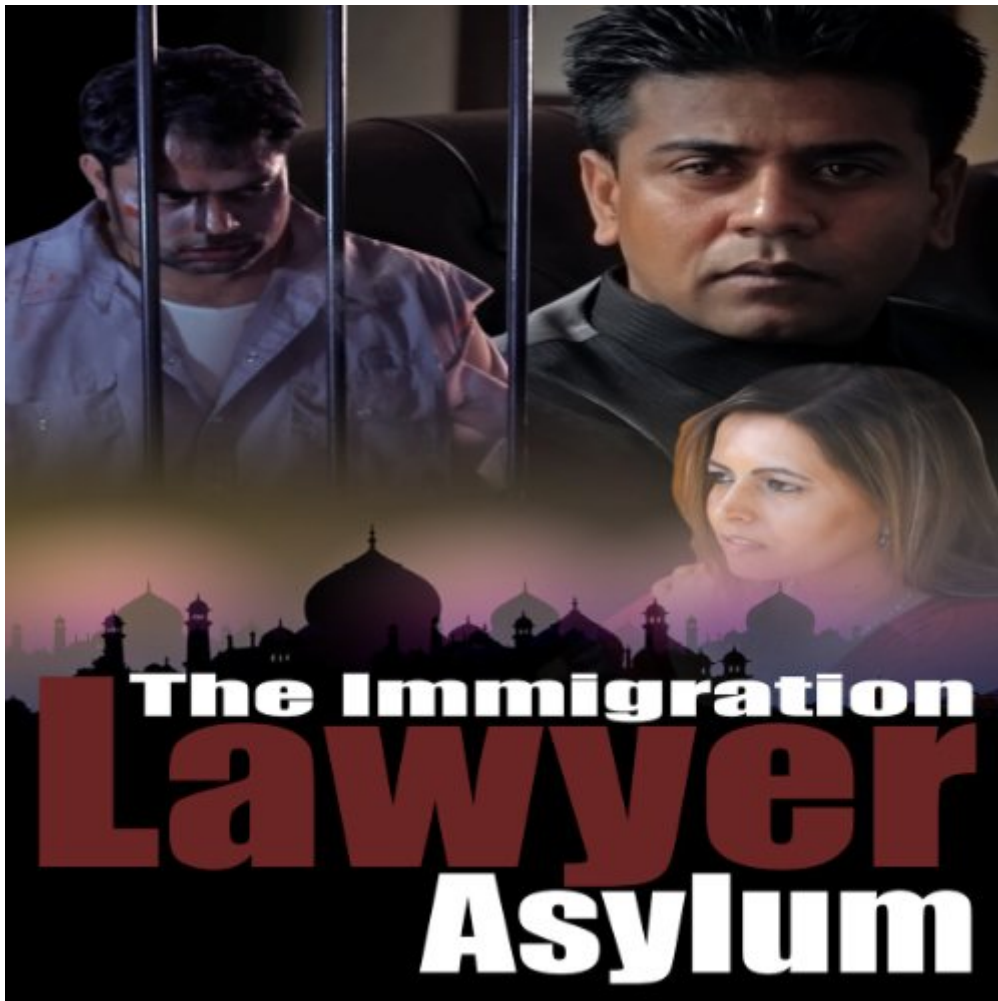


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# The Immigration Lawyer: Asylum (Volume 1)



## Synopsis

This work of fiction covers the journey of Ahmad, a man fleeing Iraq during the rule of Saddam Hussein, to seek refuge in the United States. He is escaping because the Iraqi government has been torturing him for years thinking he is a CIA agent. Ironically, he faces an interesting ordeal in the hands of the United States Immigration. The US government, on the other hand, believes that he is a terrorist. While he is entering California on valid visitor B1/B2 visa, he is apprehended on immigration charges and placed in immigration custody. At this point, a new nightmare starts. The book is a very unique attempt to describe some of the important issues in immigration law including Asylum, marriage petitions, U Visas, a clear description of an immigration court case and other immigration issues. Written by Shah Peerally, an immigration lawyer, the book depicts the events inside the US Immigration court and the Department of Homeland Security. The book also echoes the sentiment of many immigrants who went through the difficult process. Moreover, the book brings to light the hate and discrimination of immigrants. Although a work of fiction, the book is a good guide on a number of immigration issues while depicting the triumph of the American justice system.

PROLOGUE Rightful liberty is unobstructed action according to our will within limits drawn around us by the equal rights of others. I do not add "within the limits of the law" because law is often but the tyrant's will, and always so when it violates the rights of the individual. —Thomas Jefferson

In the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, hundreds of individuals were arrested without being charged. While most of those arrested were never convicted of terrorism, their greatest vulnerability had been targeted—their status as immigrants, individuals with the vulnerable tag of being outsiders. The defunct Immigration and Naturalization Services were absorbed into one unit named the Department of Homeland Security. Under the Patriot Act and the Real ID Act, the immigrant community was forced to live in fear. Many were deported or disappeared. In this time of darkness, emerged a group of civil rights lawyers, guerrilla lawyers. These lawyers believed in the United States Constitution and were determined to fight for justice. Their faith and allegiance were often questioned, yet none of them gave up. Among this group was a less applauded group, which consisted of those faced with the actual challenge, the implementation of the immigration law and new challenges namely being considered guilty until proven innocent. These were the immigration lawyers. They fought for equal access to justice, which should never be decided by skin color, religion, or nationality. This is the story of some of those lawyers and their fight that helped others gain the courage to raise their voices against injustice.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I bought this book after doing some research on the harrassment of immigrants to America following the events of September 11th. I bought this book with a few things in mind. The most important probably being that I wanted to read something contreversial that may, in some way, enlighten me to a different point of view. This book did just that. It was executed tastefully and written well. The book is about a lawyer named Sarah who specifically fights for the rights of immigrants. I suppose in a few ways business mixes with pleasure- for she is married to a Muslim immigrant. So naturally her heart knows the people she is fighting for- she knows their rights- and she knows they deserve equal treatment. But alas, no matter how 'free' America is- is it truly free? That's where this book takes us. On a journey into the depths of how immigrants are often treated (or should I say 'mistreated) by our government, our natural-born citizens, and our legal justice system. The book follows the story of a few people. Sarah struck me as one of the more important characters- for she's the lawyer that helps so many of them. But another character is Ahmad, an immigrant to America from the Middle East. In Ahmad's life outside of the US he faced many hardships and

unfortunes. He in many ways was left broken, tortured, fearful, and untrusting. But as with so many modern American immigrants he comes to the US with the hopes of a better future. After confiding in the US government on his negative experiences overseas- rather than being helped, Ahmad is essentially taken (what I would call) 'legal hostage'. Sarah, becomes the lawyer who takes the case. And as you can imagine many things escalate from there. The story is a very fulfilling read.

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