

Immigration Scams

Identify and Verify Before You Pay

1. IDENTIFY – IS THE PERSON YOU’RE WORKING WITH AN ATTORNEY OR DOJ ACCREDITED REPRESENTATIVE?

Scammers may say they have a special certification. Only an attorney or an [accredited representative](#) working for an [organization recognized by the U.S. Department of Justice](#) is authorized to give you legal advice about the immigration process.

- An **attorney** must be a member of the [professional association in their state](#). Ask the person in which state they are licensed. Confirm their license is active by searching for them using the professional association in the corresponding state.
- An **accredited representative** is not a lawyer but is someone authorized to give immigration advice. Find the recognized organizations in your area here on the [Recognition & Accreditation Program](#) page.

 The State Bar of California

Log in | News | Forms | Contact

Q

☰

PUBLIC: Need Legal Help | Complaints & Claims | Free Legal Information | Discipline | Public Trust Liaison | En español

Legal Specialist Search

Finding the Right Lawyer

Attorney Search

Provisionally Licensed Lawyers

Legal Guides

Lawyer Referral Service

Problem with a Lawyer

Select Language ▼

Attorney Search

Enter Attorney Name or Bar Number

Minnie Mouse

Search

☐ Include similar sounding names

NOTE: Due to technical limitations, this search cannot handle extended characters.
Example: for Nuñez, please search Nunez.

For more search options, including the ability to search for [certified specialists](#) or other practice characteristics, try [Advanced Search](#). You can also search for [Provisionally Licensed Lawyers](#).

Notice of License Status Changes Dashboard

See [Notice of License Status Changes Dashboard](#) for disciplinary and administrative status changes for California attorneys.

Your search for *Stephanie Baez* returned 1 results.

Click any column heading to sort on that column. Hold shift and click multiple headings to sort on multiple columns.

Name	Status	Number	City	Admission Date
Mouse, Minnie	Active	000000	Anaheim	November 2006

Showing 1 to 1 of 1 entries

Previous

1

Next

2. VERIFY – DOES THE PERSON WORK WHERE THEY SAY THEY WORK?

Some scammers use the information of real attorneys (name, professional license number). In Step One, you searched for the attorney's information through the [professional association in their state](#). Verify the attorney's place of employment and contact information on the state website. If the information does not match, **call the phone number provided through the [professional association in their state](#)**. If there is no website or phone number listed, google the person's name and the city or state that is provided on the state association website. **Do not verify information by calling the number provided by the person who you suspect.**

Legal Specialist Search

Finding the Right Lawyer

Attorney Search

Provisionally Licensed Lawyers

Legal Guides

Lawyer Referral Service

Problem with a Lawyer

Select Language ▾

Attorney Profile

Minnie Mouse #000000

License Status: Active

Address: Disneyland Park, 1313 Disneyland Dr., Anaheim, CA 92802

Phone: 999-999-9999 | Fax: Not Available

Email: minniemouse@disneyland.com | Website: Not Available

More about This Attorney ▾

License Status, Disciplinary and Administrative History

The table below shows an attorney's license status changes, disciplinary actions, and administrative actions. Some administrative suspensions are subject to automatic removal from the attorney profile page pursuant to the State Bar's [policy on removal of administrative actions](#). Administrative suspensions are non-disciplinary actions resulting from noncompliance with administrative requirements, such as the requirement to pay licensing fees or comply with Minimum Continuing Legal Education. Administrative suspensions that meet the criteria in the State Bar's policy on removal of administrative actions would not be displayed below.

Date	License Status ⓘ	Discipline ⓘ	Administrative Action ⓘ
Present	Active		
11/11/2006	Admitted to the State Bar of California		

Additional Information:

- [About the disciplinary system](#)

Be Aware of Common Scams

DOES THE PERSON PROMISE A FAST OR POSITIVE RESULT?

When the person guarantees a positive or fast result, verify the person is who they say they are and that they are authorized to provide immigration legal services.

Examples:

- “Pay me \$5000 and you’ll definitely win the case!”
- “I promise your case will be approved quickly and without any problems!”

IS THE PERSON RUSHING YOU?

Scammers may pressure you to act fast and pay them as soon as possible to secure their services. When the person you’re working with says they want you to pay immediately in cash, wire money directly to them, or use an encrypted service like WhatsApp, verify the person is who they say they are and that they are authorized to provide immigration legal services.

Example:

“Send me \$500 to get started. I have a lot of cases so if you don’t send me the money now, I might not be able to help you tomorrow.”

IS THE PERSON SAYING THEY ARE A NOTARIO?

Notaries in the United States are NOT allowed to practice law.