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## **What was the genesis of the idea/path that has made you a trailblazer?**

For a number of years, I have acted as a liaison with the government agencies involved with the administration of our nation's immigration laws. Acting as a liaison is not an adversarial role, and while it requires a deep understanding of US immigration laws and how they are administered, it also requires tact, diplomacy, a sense of how to frame the questions to bring about positive responses from the agencies, and knowledge of what questions not to ask.

## **What sort of change has resulted from the concept?**

Although there is always more work to be done, I believe that through my liaison efforts and the efforts of others with whom I have collaborated in this role, we have brought about positive changes in the administration of our immigration laws, helped the agencies to resolve complex issues, and have improved the ability of highly skilled foreign nationals to provide critically needed healthcare services in the United States.

## **What bearing will this have on the future?**

I am hopeful that the agencies can see the continuing value that seasoned practitioners can bring to the table by pointing out areas where government systems are not functioning properly. There has been no major overhaul of our immigration laws in over 40 years, and much of the change that has happened during this time has happened between the lines, through regulation, agency memos, and through the individual interpretations of the agencies and even individual adjudicators. Right now, many of the agencies are in a state of crisis, with growing backlogs and inefficiencies. In recent years, they have isolated themselves from outside expertise in many ways, and often positive change is only effectuated through litigation. If these agencies return to seeking out the appropriate experts with in-depth knowledge of the field, creative solutions can be implemented more collaboratively.