



Lee Gibbs Depret-Bixio

Shareholder Columbia

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Ogletree
Deakins

Lee Depret-Bixio joined Ogletree Deakins in 2003 and she practices exclusively in the area of business immigration law. She assists U.S. and foreign companies in obtaining and maintaining employment-based nonimmigrant and immigrant visas for key employees and assists clients with state and federal employment verification (I-9) compliance and enforcement issues. Having lived and worked in France for several years, Ms. Depret-Bixio is fluent in French.

Admitted to Practice

- South Carolina

Education

- J.D., University of South Carolina, 2003
- B.A., Hollins College, 1989

Practice and Industry Groups

- Immigration
- International

Experience

Ms. Depret-Bixio represents employers of all sizes and industries including automotive manufacturers and suppliers, colleges and universities, electronic component manufacturers, service industry, hospital systems, hotel and restaurant groups, farms, pharmaceutical companies, software developers and distributors, beverage distributors, and biotechnology companies.

She handles the following types of matters:

- Assists employers obtain nonimmigrant “work visas” for its foreign employees including the B, E, H, J, L, O, P, Q, and TN categories
- Assists employers obtain permanent immigrant visas (commonly referred to as “green cards”) based on extraordinary ability, outstanding researcher, multinational executive and manager, and labor certification (“PERM”) strategies
- Advises employers on federal employment verification compliance requirements. Assists them with compliance issues including internal I-9 audits, government investigations, mismatched Social Security numbers, E-Verify and developing compliance programs
- Advises employers on how to comply with South Carolina’s new immigration law, the S.C. Illegal

Immigration Reform Act. She has worked closely with the South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, responsible for enforcing the new law, on the development of proper enforcement strategies and also to educate South Carolina employers on the new requirements

Professional Activities and Speeches

Professional Activities:

- South Carolina Bar Association
- Richland County Bar Association
- American Immigration Lawyers Association
- National Association of Women Lawyers
- South Carolina Women Lawyers Association

Our Insights

- Automated Form I-94 Arrival/Departure Record to be Introduced in April 2013
04/09/2013

Media

Media Quotes

- October, 2014 - Fast Casual - "5 Steps for Keeping Your Restaurant from Getting ICE'd"
- April, 2010 - The State - "More Citations Expected in the Future"
- January, 2010 - December, 2010 - Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce newsletter - "Immigration Reform Law Set to Affect All South Carolina Employers"
- August, 2009 - Charleston Regional Business Journal - "Immigration Audits Concern Businesses"
- June, 2009 - The Post and Courier - "Companies Preparing for New Law"
- January, 2009 - The State - "Companies Advised to Check Hires in Database"
- December, 2008 - The Post and Courier - "South Carolina Immigrant Employee Law Takes Effect Next Month"
- October, 2008 - The State - "New Law Puzzles S.C. Businesses"
- January, 2008 - December, 2008 - Mechanical Contractors Association of S.C. newsletter - "New S.C. Immigration Legislation Impacts ALL S.C. Employers: How will it affect you?"

Published Works

- April 30, 2013 - "Automated Form I-94 Arrival/Departure Record to be Introduced in April 2013"
- April 05, 2013 - "Immigration Reform—How Will Proposed Legislation Impact Employers?"
- March 11, 2013 - "Post-Election Immigration Reform - What's At Issue?"