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January 15, 2020

Via email: Minister@cic.gc.ca

The Honourable Marco Mendicino, P.C. M.P.
Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship
365 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, ON K1A 1L1

Dear Minister Mendicino:

I write on behalf of the Immigration Law Section of the Canadian Bar Association (CBA Section) to congratulate you on your appointment as Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship. We look forward to working with you and continuing our longstanding collaboration with your department.

The CBA is a national association representing 36,000 jurists, including lawyers, notaries, law teachers and students across Canada. Our primary objectives include improvements in the law and the administration of justice. The CBA Section has approximately 1,000 members across Canada practising in all areas of immigration and refugee law.

Immigration grows Canada's economy and enriches its cultural and social fabric. The Canadian immigration system should be fair and efficient, built on the principles of natural justice, reflective of Canadian policy interests, and in line with the other important objectives outlined in the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*. Throughout your mandate, The CBA Section can offer you the unique perspective of a network of lawyers with expertise in immigration law and policy.

We reviewed the mandate letter you received from the Prime Minister and are pleased that reducing application processing times, improving client services and municipal sponsorship of immigrants have been identified as priorities. We wish to bring to your attention some of the CBA Section's other priority issues:

- Restoring appeal rights for permanent residents;
- Addressing labour shortages effectively while protecting Canadian businesses and jobs; and
- Protecting the public from immigration fraud.

We commend IRCC for its recent progress in improving its processing times. However, we continue to have concerns, particularly about the processing times at the Edmonton Case Processing Centre.

We would like to invite you to be a keynote speaker at the CBA Immigration Law Conference in Montreal on April 2-4, 2020. The ideal time for you to speak would be at the luncheon on Saturday April 4, which begins around 1:20 pm and ends at 2:45 pm. We can offer another time during the conference if that would better accommodate your schedule. Our annual conference is the preeminent Canadian immigration law event, an unparalleled opportunity for you to engage with the largest gathering of immigration lawyers and key stakeholders from across the country. Our attendees would be very interested in hearing from you about Canada's immigration law and policy priorities.

We look forward to offering you our expertise and assistance.

Yours truly,

(original letter signed by Nadia Sayed for Ravi Jain)

Ravi Jain
Chair, CBA Immigration Law Section