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WORKING

A. Sam Akintimoye

Immigration lawyer helps others along a familiar path

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A. Sam Akintimoye remembers when a bill like his for an employment visa brought the path to citizenship might have been under $1 in the stamp — he executed a U.S. citizen behind tacking the mail — he wanted to study in America, as he can, with a passport brought with a magic ticket.

Akintimoye is an immigration law lawyer, now although he now operates with many of his clients, he didn't set out to work in this field.

Akintimoye remembers the promised land and how on this journey almost 20 years ago.

He was 17 and talking to the family's living room in Lagos, Nigeria. A family friend had just returned from college in Kansas and was telling the visitor. The friend asked him, "Are neighbors question he could ask a foreigner. "Where are you going to go with your life?"

Akintimoye said.

"I said, 'I don't know.'"

The friend asked if he wouldn't consider going to the United States. The idea appealed to him. But circumstances intervened.

"The image of Lansing was when you were in San Jose, Mexico stands — the city," Akintimoye said.

His dad thought he was too young to be exposed to that.

But the neighbor said Kansas was a "little town, community and you could leave your door open all night."

His dad agreed he could go, on one condition. "The first time you go to America, use your time at Kansas — that's it."

It didn't quite work out that way. He eventually transferred to school in Iowa, Illinois, the place was to remain home when college, that the economic and political circumstances changed for the worse when the military took over the Nigerian government. He was still a U.S. citizen in 1984.

"You're in America," he said. "You don't want to lose your citizen one."

TRANSFERRING DREAMS

Akintimoye didn't expect to be a lawyer to college, in many cases. "That was the farthest thing."

"My father always wanted me to be a doctor right now. He says, 'My fellow students to be a lawyer,' I'm growing up in Nigeria. So I say, 'Dad, [illegible]

A. Sam Akintimoye becomes a U.S. citizen in 1986.

[illegible] I don't want to [illegible]."

The chief applied to three schools, but he was rejected. So he set to work, applied with hard to specific areas. Now, was designated. The chief signed England. Akintimoye officials and foreign. Two days of work with completed knowledge of Immigration Immigration.

"Because of that, he didn't go to law school," Akintimoye said. "I guess my experience has become a lawyer. Even though my dad never saw him graduate, Akintimoye said he is genuinely his father was him through that he."

FAILURES AND SUCCESS

Akintimoye worked his career as a law student for the years as California. As part of his job, he would interview the lists.

"The more experience I got was the less businesses," he said. It started to be a business," he said.

He practiced here in southern "When you're dealing with here, you are not in a situation of solving a problem that affects people's lives," Akintimoye said. "People come to you with their dreams and problems. Sometimes they're their deepest secrets. It's a big responsibility. It's something you have to take seriously."

In his school, Akintimoye worked at an immigration law office but he wasn't sure he wanted to be here. But people who came to his Euclid Avenue office to Caribbean often, were dealing with immigration issues of the previous studied.

He soon found working legal status for Bangladeshis in family businesses. He worked with companies whose foreign executive employees are not legal. He has clients, as there. He is an artist, who have been here all their lives. He's going.

"Everything that he sees because of homework and working like U.S. immigration, unable to deport them — but is the working paperwork of their lives. It can fall on a person. Now [can he actually have something to affect their lives."

He has a good success rate in getting legal status for clients, he said.

"It's a very tedious and very sophisticated procedure. But we get the results," he said.

He turns down about half of the people who come to him because there's nothing he can do for them, he said. "If you're [illegible] I'm not going to take your money," he said.

Akintimoye isn't always going into more people, "and he grows tremendously because other [illegible]."

Immigration here, he said, is challenging — and just because the law is in constant flux, the rules are down to folks.

"The role of lawyer is very similar," Akintimoye said.

Still, while he recommends the clients are eventually thankful, he said.

"If anyone you can opportunity to be under a difference in people's lives," Akintimoye said. "When you provide results, it is rewarding for you as a lawyer."