## **Becoming Water**

Exploring some of the strange ways practitioners can advance clients' cases

# Exploring some (but not all) of the special programs

- Western Hemisphere Priority Dates
- 245(i)
- Parole in Place
- Child Status Protection Act
- Some of the other laws that are out there

#### Western Hemisphere Priority Dates

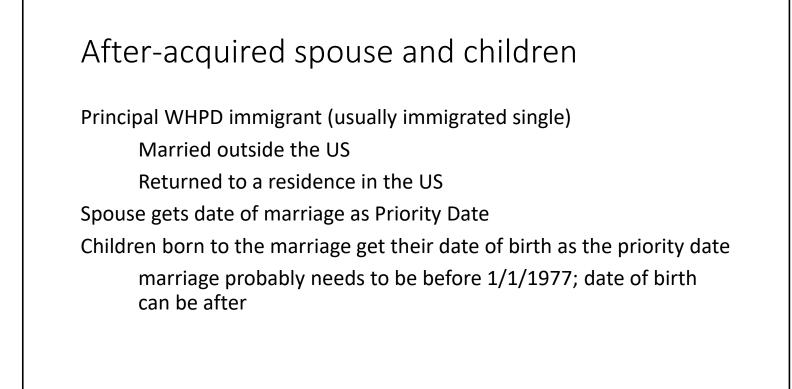
- Once you find one, you tend to find more
  - Often, multiple siblings qualify
  - Often, cousins have similar family histories

### WHPD—Simplified background

- Before 1977, there were two immigration systems
  - One for Independent Western Hemisphere Countries
  - One for everybody else
- On January 1, 1977, the Western Hemisphere system was eliminated, BUT
  - Registered Western Hemisphere immigrants could use their priority date in conjunction with a new petition under the new system

#### WHPD—How does someone have one?

- Direct registration
  - Beneficiary of an I-130/I-140/Labor Certification or direct registration with the Consulate
  - Very few of these are likely to walk into your office
- Family registration
  - Family members who existed at the time of principal's registration have an independent WHPD registration
  - Children born to a marriage that existed at the time of registration also count—even if born after 1977



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Also available as part of the eCourse 2023 eConference on Immigration and Nationality Law

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