**ASYLUM—WHERE TO FIND THE LAW**

**International sources**

1951 UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (the “Refugee Convention”)

1967 UN Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees (the “Refugee Protocol”)

UN Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment (CAT)

UNHCR “Handbook on Procedures and Criteria for Determining Refugee Status”

UNCHR Executive Committee Conclusions

UNHCR Guidelines (all of these UNHCR documents are available at [www.unhcr.org](http://www.unhcr.org) )

[This is NOT an exhaustive list]

**Federal Statutes**

INA § 101(a)(42)—Refugee definition

INA § 208—Asylum (eligibility and procedures)

INA § 235—Expedited removal

INA § 241(b)(3)—Withholding of removal

INA § 212—Inadmissibility grounds (the terrorism-related inadmissibility grounds are at 212(a)(3)(B))

INA § 212(d)(3)—Discretionary executive authority to grant exemptions from the terrorism bars

INA § 212(d)(5)--Parole

**Federal Regulations**

*Please note: to account for the division of authority over immigration matters between the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the immigration regulations at 8 CFR Chapter 1 (the old INS regs) were duplicated into 8 CFR Chapter V, creating a parallel set of regulations for the Executive Office for Immigration Review (part of DOJ). Section numbers for the EOIR regs = section numbers for the DHS regs + 1000. Example: 8 CFR § 208 (asylum eligibility & procedures) on the DHS side appears in the EOIR regs as 8 CFR § 1208.*

8 CFR § 208/1208—Asylum and withholding eligibility and procedures

8 CFR § 235/1235—Expedited removal

8 CFR § 208.16, 17, 18—CAT relief

8 CFR § 212.5/1212.5--Parole

8 CFR § 1003—EOIR regulations (= immigration courts + BIA)

**Case law**

U.S. Supreme Court decisions

Attorney General Decisions

BIA precedential decisions

U.S. Court of Appeals decisions

U.S. District Court decisions

***For free access to BIA decisions, as well as handy links to the regs, the BIA Practice Manual, and an array of other useful materials, go to the EOIR’s Virtual Law Library:*** [***http://www.usdoj.gov/eoir/vll/libindex.html***](http://www.usdoj.gov/eoir/vll/libindex.html)***.***

**Other administrative sources**

USCIS & EOIR Policy Directives and Memoranda, Field Manuals, and Operations Instructions

*Many of these are accessible at* [*www.uscis.gov*](http://www.uscis.gov) *(for USCIS documents) or through the EOIR online law library (for EOIR documents).*