

Bar Admission New York State Bar

Court Admission

United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York

Education

LL.B. Peking University School of Law; LL.M. New York University School of Law; Professional Certificate in Fashion Design, Parsons School of Design | the New School (Pending)

Membership

New York State Bar Association

Xiaozhu (Grace) Zhao, Esq.

Partner

Private Client Service, Business Immigration, Startup Law

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Ms. Zhao advises across a range of practice areas critical to her private clients, with a particular focus on business immigration for high-net-worth individuals and individuals of extraordinary ability. She has deep expertise in the EB-1A, NIW, and O-1 visa categories. Known for unwavering commitment and industry-wide recognition, Ms. Zhao is widely regarded as a trusted long-term advisor. Many clients continue to engage her across their business and philanthropic ventures – from structuring legal compliance for innovative startups, managing funding and investment transactions for established companies, and setting up and overseeing not-for-profit organizations for legacy and charitable purposes.

Ms. Zhao leads the firm's startup practice, which specializes in the broader arts and creative industries. She provides comprehensive legal support, including entity formation, day-to-day compliance, intellectual property protection (copyright and trademark), commercial contracts, and investment-related matters, all tailored to creative and emerging businesses' unique needs.

A respected thought leader, Ms. Zhao regularly speaks at industry conferences and contributes articles on topics ranging from immigration status strategy and IP protection to startup compliance and professional development. She also collaborates with policy institutes on legal reforms and provides counsel to leading legal aid and education initiatives in the arts.

Before joining the firm, Ms. Zhao gained extensive experience in international business and public international law. She served as a legal researcher with the Codification Division of the UN Office of Legal Affairs in New York and the UN International Law Commission in Geneva, supporting South Africa and China Commissioners.

Thomson Reuters has repeatedly recognized Ms. Zhao on the Super Lawyers list.