

STRATEGIC IMMIGRATION · EB-1A EXTRAORDINARY ABILITY

The EB1A No-RFE Checklist

Build your petition so the officer never has to ask.

*A Request for Evidence isn't bad luck — it's a gap the officer found. Gaps are predictable, which means they're preventable. Use this checklist to pressure-test your petition **before** you file, the same way we audit ours.*

01 Choose Your Criteria Like a Litigator

- ☐ **Identify your 3–4 strongest criteria** out of the ten — not the most, the most defensible. Depth beats breadth.
- ☐ **Map every criterion to its regulatory language** (8 C.F.R. § 204.5(h)(3)). Your evidence must answer the actual legal standard, not a paraphrase of it.
- ☐ **Stress-test each criterion:** if an officer challenged it in writing, could you win on the existing record alone?
- ☐ **Drop weak criteria.** A marginal claim invites scrutiny that can spill over onto your strong ones.

STRATEGY NOTE — USCIS applies a two-step analysis: first the criteria, then the 'final merits' totality review. Your petition must win both — separately.

02 Prove It — Don't Just Claim It

- ☐ **Every assertion has an exhibit.** If a sentence in your petition letter has no supporting document, cut it or support it.
- ☐ **Quantify everything:** citation counts with field context, media reach and circulation, salary percentile data, membership selectivity rates.
- ☐ **Provide independent, objective corroboration** — rankings, databases, official records — not just self-generated materials.
- ☐ **Translate significance for a generalist.** Assume the officer is intelligent but not in your field. Define why each achievement matters.
- ☐ **Certified translations** for every non-English document, without exception.

03 Expert Letters That Say Something

- ☐ **Prioritize independent experts** who know your work but don't know you personally. Independence carries weight; flattery does not.

- ☐ **Each letter makes a specific claim** tied to a specific criterion — with concrete examples of impact, not adjectives.
- ☐ **Establish the expert's authority** in the first paragraph: who they are and why their opinion matters.
- ☐ **No template language.** Recycled paragraphs across letters are a known red flag that undermines the entire set.

04 A Narrative the Officer Can't Argue With

- ☐ **One coherent story:** who you are, what you've achieved, why it places you at the top of your field — and how every exhibit proves it.
- ☐ **Cross-reference every exhibit** in the petition letter. An exhibit that's never discussed is an exhibit that's never read.
- ☐ **Address weaknesses preemptively.** If there's an obvious question, answer it in the petition — before the officer asks it in an RFE.
- ☐ **Show continuing acclaim and intent:** evidence that you will keep working in your area of extraordinary ability in the U.S.

05 The Pre-Filing Audit

- ☐ **Adversarial review:** have someone play the officer and attack your case. Every gap they find is an RFE you just prevented.
- ☐ **Check formatting and organization:** tabbed exhibits, an exhibit index, and a petition letter that guides the reader page by page.
- ☐ **Verify consistency** across forms, letters, and exhibits — dates, titles, and figures must match everywhere.
- ☐ **File only when the record is complete.** Filing 'now' with a gap costs more time than filing 'right' ever will.

Ready to Build a Petition They Can't Question?

Your EB1A is an investment in the life you're building here. Let's review your case, identify the gaps, and map your strongest path to approval — before you file.

**SCHEDULE YOUR COMPLIMENTARY 15-MINUTE CASE
EVALUATION →**

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