



LETRADOS

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Blas Jesús Imbroda Ortiz, Lawyer, Founder, General Manager of this Law Firm.

Has been Dean of the Melilla Bar Association since March 2001, Attorney since July 1981, and he is member of Melilla, Malaga and Madrid Bar Associations.

He is also counsellor of the National General Board of Spanish Advocacy and member of the National Bar Association of International Criminal Law.

He also holds several Master's Degrees such as International Criminal Law Degree or International Relations Degree.

Dr Imbroda Ortíz is Professor and Tutor of Criminal Law at National Distance University of Law School.

He is Correspondent Academic of the Royal Advocacy and Law Association of Granada.



Salomón Serfaty Bittán, Lawyer, member of Bufete Imbroda Lawyers.

Attorney since March 2000, and he is member of Melilla Bar Associations.

He also holds Master's Degrees such as Financial Markets.

Dr. Serfaty is special legal advisor for companies.

He is a renowned and accredited specialist on nationality for Sephardic collective members worldwide, having handled hundreds of cases of application.

Law Overview

As stated in MINISTRY OF JUSTICE Decree-Law No 30-A / 2015, Feb. 27

The designation of Sephardic Jews refers to the descendants of the ancient Jews and traditional Jewish communities of the Iberian Peninsula. The presence of these communities in the Iberian Peninsula is very old, and even before the formation of the Iberian Christian kingdoms, as was the case with Portugal.

Having these Jewish communities, from the late fifteenth century and after the Alhambra Edict of 1492, been the object of persecution by the Spanish Inquisition, many of its members took refuge then in Portugal.

However, King Manuel, who had initially issued a law that guaranteed their protection, he ordered the expulsion of all Sephardic Jews that did not apply to the Catholic baptism. Thus, many Sephardic Jews were expelled from Portugal in the late fifteenth century and early sixteenth century.

In general, these peninsular Jews established - if, among others, in countries like the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Turkey as well as in parts of North Africa and later in American territories, including Brazil, Argentina, Mexico and the United States of America (USA).

Despite the persecution and expulsion of their ancestral territory have, many Sephardic Jews of origin portuguese and their descendants kept not only the Portuguese language, but also the traditional rites of the ancient Jewish worship in Portugal, saving over generations their surnames, objects and documents proving their Portuguese origin, along with a strong memorial relationship that leads them to qualify themselves to themselves as "Portuguese Jews 'or' Jews of the Portuguese Nation".

During the period of the Inquisition many of these New-Christians and Portuguese Jews managed to escape and get out of the kingdom, settling in some regions of the Mediterranean (Gibraltar, Morocco, South of France, Italy, Croatia, Greece, Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Jordan, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia and Algeria), Northern Europe (London, Nantes, Paris, Antwerp, Brussels, Rotterdam and Amsterdam), Brazil, Antilles and the US, among others, there creating highly reputed and established notable synagogues, such as the Portuguese Synagogue in Amsterdam, the Synagogue Shearith Israel in New York, the Bevis Marks Synagogue in London, the Touro Synagogue in Newport (Rhode Island - USA), the Portuguese Synagogue of Montreal and Tzur Israel Synagogue in Recife.

Law Overview

In the early nineteenth century returned to Portugal some descendants of Sephardic Jews who had taken refuge in Morocco and Gibraltar, and in 1801 was created the first modern Jewish cemetery, next to the English Cemetery in Lisbon, and in 1868 by decree of King Luis, been allocated to 'Jews Lisbon allowed to install a cemetery for the burial of his supporters ', the current cemetery Rua D. Afonso III, in Lisbon.

In the Diaspora in the Netherlands and the United Kingdom remain, among others, surnames:

Abrantes, Aguilar, Andrade, Brandão, Brito, Bueno, Cardoso, Carvalho, Cas-tro, Costa, Coutinho, Dourado, Fonseca, Furtado, Gomes, Gouveia, Granjo, Henriques, Lara, Marques, Melo e Prado, Mesquita, Mendes, Neto, Nunes, Pereira, Pinheiro, Rodrigues, Rosa, Sarmiento, Silva, Soares, Teixeira e Teles.

In the Latin American diaspora remain, for example:

Almeida, Avelar, Bravo, Carvajal, Crespo, Duarte, Ferreira, Franco, Gato, Gonçalves, Guerreiro, Leão, Lopes, Leiria, Lobo, Lousada, Machorro, Martins, Montesino, Moreno, Mota, Macias, Miranda, Oliveira, Osório, Pardo, Pina, Pinto, Pimentel, Pizarro, Querido, Rei, Ribeiro, Salvador, Torres e Viana.

In addition, other parts of the world there are also descendants of Sephardic Jews from Portugal to retain, in addition to the above, among others, the following surnames:

Amorim, Azevedo, Álvares, Barros, Basto, Belmonte, Cáceres, Caetano, Cam-pos, Carneiro, Cruz, Dias, Duarte, Elias, Estrela, Gaiola, Josué, Lemos, Lombroso, Lopes, Machado, Mascarenhas, Mattos, Meira, Mello e Canto, Mendes da Costa, Miranda, Morão, Morões, Mota, Moucada, Negro, Oliveira, Osório (ou Ozório), Paiva, Pilão, Pinto, Pessoa, Preto, Souza, Vaz e Vargas.



Law Overview

In addition to the familiar nicknames and the use of Portuguese, particularly in the rites, there are descendants of Portuguese Sephardic Jews who, even today, talk to each other Ladino, the language used by Sephardim expelled from Spain and Portugal in the fifteenth century, derived from castelano and Portuguese and currently spoken by about 150,000 people in existing communities in Israel, Turkey, the former Yugoslavia, Greece, Morocco and in America a-rich, among many other places.

This law authorizes the exercise of the right of return for Sephardic Jews descendants of Portuguese origin that so wish, through the acquisition of Portuguese nationality by naturalization, with its attendant rights and obligations.

Law Overview

Foreign naturalization that are descendants of Portuguese Sephardic Jews

The Government may grant citizenship through naturalization to the descendants of Sephardic Jews, when they fulfill the following requirements:

a) are adult or emancipated under the law;

b) not have been convicted, with final judgment of sentence for committing a crime punishable with a maximum prison sentence equal to or exceeding three years, under Portuguese law.

The request submitted by the interested or his lawyer are indicated and demonstrated the circumstances giving rise to belong to a tradition of Sephardic community of Portuguese origin, in particular, family surnames, familiar language, direct descendants or family relationship in the collateral line of common parent from the Sephardic community of Portuguese origin.

In the absence of the certificate referred and to demonstrate the direct descendants or family relationship in the collateral line of common parent from the Sephardic community of Portuguese origin and tradition of belonging to the Sephardic community of origin Portuguese, the following evidence is admitted:

a) authenticated document issued by the Jewish community to which the applicant belongs, stating the use of the same expressions in Portuguese in Jewish rites or, as spoken by themselves within that community, the rogue;

b) authenticated documentary records, such as records of synagogues and Jewish cemeteries, as well as residence permits, property deeds, wills and other evidence of family connection require the close-by means of direct descent or familiar relationship in the collateral line common parent from the Sephardic community of Portuguese origin.



Law Overview

Certificate issued by the Portuguese Jewish Community

The applicant for Portuguese Nationality must first obtain a Certificate from the Portuguese Jewish Community which attests to his/her ties to a Sephardic Jewish Community of Portuguese origin. A request for this Certificate must be addressed to the Jewish Community of Oporto or to the Jewish Community of Lisbon.

We will deal this point for the applicants, directly in contact with jewish certificate.

Evidence of the applicant's family history of connection to a Sephardic Community of Portuguese origin, by means of family names, language, direct or collateral descent, or other elements which are indicative of this connection, may be direct and circumstantial.

Direct evidence may be provided by means of the following: family records, family tree, community archives of births, marriages and deaths, cemeteries and lists of tombs, brit milah records, general Government archives that show arrivals from Portugal, lists of ships and passengers arriving from Portugal.

Circumstantial evidence may be provided by means of any type of proof, provided that all of such elements of proof, when considered collectively or individually, in combination with direct evidence, will serve to convince the Committee.

Means of proof: documented evidence, testimonial evidence and expert evidence.

Documents and requirements

1. **Certificate** from Jewish Community in Portugal or **evidence as requested in next slide: A) or B).**
2. **Full passport copy** certified by a Portuguese Consulate or apostilled
3. **Power of attorney. We will give exact details.**
4. **Birth certificate** issued within the previous six month*
5. **Criminal record** from the applicant country of birth and countries which he has resided more than 1 year, issued within the previous ninety days*
6. Proofs which establish the connection to a Portuguese community of Sephardic origin . We will give exact details.



Application costs

Application Fees

Government processing Fee each applicant - €250

Jewish Community fees first applicant – 500.-eur, second applicant 250.-eur

Obtaining portuguese citizenship

- 1 Document obtainance
- 2 Necessary documents sebd to Portugal (see Documents and Requirements)
Power of attorney signed and sent to law office
Jewish community is obtained in Portugal or abroad
- 3 Process is submitted
- 4 Government analyses documents
- 5 Process is dispatched and portuguese citizenship is obtained.

* In case any of the evidence is not correct it may be requested new one.

After citizenship is granted

After portuguese citizenship is obtained, client can obtain citizen card or issue a portuguese passport.

Portuguese passport gives access to travel freely in Schenguen countries and UK, no need for visit visa.

Access to residence permits to other European countries.



For more information,
please contact



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