Samuel Okonkwo

CONSUL

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SUMMARY

Consul with 10 years in the Foreign Service, leading consular sections in Mexico, the Philippines and Peru. Runs visa adjudication, American citizen services and fraud prevention at high volume, and has led crisis management for earthquakes, hurricanes and mass arrests.

SKILLS

Visa Adjudication • American Citizen Services • Immigration and Nationality Act • Fraud Prevention • Crisis Management
Passport Services • Consular Section Management • Spanish • Leadership • Public Speaking

EXPERIENCE

Consul 08/2023 - Present

U.S. Consulate General Guadalajara, U.S. Department of State Guadalajara, Mexico

Consular section chief at one of the busiest U.S. visa posts in the world.

- Direct a consular section of **48** American and local staff processing 210,000 visa applications a year.
- Oversee American citizen services for 120,000 U.S. residents in the district, including arrests, deaths and welfare cases.
- Reduced nonimmigrant visa interview waits from 180 to 30 days by adding Saturday shifts and redesigning case flow.
- Lead the consulate's crisis plan, running 2 earthquake and hurricane drills a year with state and city authorities.

Deputy Consular Section Chief 07/2019 - 07/2023

U.S. Embassy Manila, U.S. Department of State Manila, Philippines

Large consular section serving visa applicants and about 300,000 U.S. citizens.

- Supervised **9** adjudicating officers and reviewed 600+ refusals a month for consistency with immigration law.
- Partnered with the fraud prevention unit on 300+ document fraud investigations, closing 85% within 90 days.
- Managed passport and Consular Report of Birth Abroad services for 25,000 applicants a year.

Vice Consul 09/2016 - 06/2019

U.S. Embassy Lima, U.S. Department of State Lima, Peru

First Foreign Service tour, rotating between visa and citizen services units.

- Adjudicated **120+** visa interviews a day in Spanish under the Immigration and Nationality Act.
- Visited 40 detained U.S. citizens in Peruvian prisons and reported on their welfare and legal status.
- Coordinated evacuation support for 1,100 U.S. travelers during the 2017 coastal floods.

EDUCATION

Master of Arts 05/2015

University of Texas at Austin Austin, TX

Latin American Studies

CERTIFICATES

Basic Consular Course (ConGen) 08/2016

Foreign Service Institute