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Friday, July 20, 2007

The Murthy Law Firm

Baltimore Business Journal - by [Rebecca Logan](#)

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The Murthy Law Firm

10451 Mill Run Circle, Owings Mills

President: Sheela Murthy

Founded: 1994



Nicholas Griner | Staff
Small Talk with Sheela Murthy, President of The Murthy Law Firm

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Employees: 60

It's been a hot summer for immigration lawyers. Thanks to a July Visa Bulletin published by the **U.S. Department of State**, thousands of immigrants who were waiting for priority dates could suddenly file for adjustment of status. The Murthy Law Firm jumped into action, coming up with a plan for how to tackle -- in only a two-month period -- what essentially boiled down to two to four years' worth of cases with which they had been previously unable to proceed.

But then the government changed the rules again, basically "renewing," said Murthy, herself an immigrant from India with a master's degree from **Harvard Law School**. The attorney refused to focus on the negative news, though. She began to do what she does best: fight back, all while keeping an optimistic attitude.

Most frequently used word in the office:

"Rah-rah," said Murthy, who is an unapologetic optimist.

"The glass is half empty or it's half full," she said. "You can say, 'Oh, we're so overwhelmed with cases. Boo-hoo.' Or you can say, 'Rah-rah. Let's get some systems in place and get to work.'"

Office personalities:

"I've realized that to be truly successful as a team leader, you don't surround yourself with people just like you," she said.

Yet, Murthy sometimes catches herself shaking her head at how somebody could possibly have a view so different from her own. "But then you stop and think and you realize that they are giving you an approach you never would have imagined," she said.

Biggest risk to the business:

"The first thing that comes to mind is if we, as a nation, start to focus on the negatives that our immigrants bring," she said. "Unfortunately, 9-11 started us down that path. But that is not what America is all about."

What a Harvard professor might learn from the firm:

They would see how important it is to blend theory and legal knowledge with creativity and analysis. "Here you learn how to work a square peg into a round hole by being open and creative," she said.

Rebecca Logan is a contributor who lives in Harford County.

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