

Contact

www.linkedin.com/in/ukstopia
(LinkedIn)

Top Skills

Change Management

International Migration

Leadership Development

Honors-Awards

2013 Ladas Memorial Award Winner,
Student Category

Publications

Expanding US Intellectual Property
Across the Globe – The Impacts
of the Trans-Pacific Partnership
Agreement on IP

ICANN Dot-Anything: Rethinking the
Scope of the New gTLD Expansion,
Its Effect on Government Regulation,
and Its Impact on Trademark
Owners

Should You Register #Trademarks?

Ukeme Awakessien Jeter

Mayor & Council President | Higher Ed Administrator | Engineer
turned Lawyer | Keynote Speaker on Courage & Cultural Intelligence
| Author of IMMIGRIT | Helping Leaders Read The Room Through
my Newsletter Culture Cues

Columbus, Ohio, United States

Summary

Companies invest millions in leadership development, yet many overlook one of the most powerful drivers of business growth and success:

Cultural Intelligence

In an increasingly interconnected world, the ability to lead across cultures isn't just a soft skill—it's a competitive advantage.

Despite operating in a global marketplace shaped by diverse perspectives and buying patterns, many organizations suffer from cultural blind spots. They invest in hiring, but without cultural intelligence, they fail to fully leverage the talent they bring in. This leads to:

Disengaged teams and high turnover

Leadership pipelines that fail to reflect a global workforce

Stagnant innovation and lost market share

An inability to compete in a rapidly evolving business landscape

By 2035, 1 in 5 people in the workforce will be immigrant talent. Organizations that don't move beyond cultural awareness to cultural intelligence will lose the war on global talent.

From engineer to attorney, history-making elected official, and best-selling author of IMMIGRIT, I have advised executives, built coalitions, and shaped policies that drive both economic and social impact. I've managed change and seen firsthand how organizations thrive when they embrace cultural intelligence — and struggle when they don't.

As an immigrant who has lived and worked in 8 cities across 4 countries, I bring a unique blend of business acumen, policy expertise, and global insights shaped by experiences working within Fortune 500 companies, national law firms, universities, local governments, and specialized agencies of the United Nations.

My insights have been featured in Forbes, Fast Company, and HR Brew, and I have been recognized by Columbus CEO as one of its Future 50 leaders. At the heart of my work is one core mission: helping organizations harness the power of cultural intelligence to unlock innovation and drive leadership excellence.

With 20+ years of experience in change management, legal strategy, governance, and leadership, I work with leaders to:

- ✓# Build high-performing teams
- ✓# Navigate cultural complexity with confidence
- ✓# Drive innovation through cross-cultural collaboration

I do this through speaking engagements, leadership consulting, and tailored workshops that move organizations from cultural awareness to cultural intelligence.

Let's Connect. Cultural intelligence is the future of leadership. I can help build that future. Contact me at hello@immigritbook.com or send me a DM right here on LinkedIn.

Experience

The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law
Assistant Dean for Global Perspectives
April 2025 - Present (3 months)
Columbus, Ohio, United States

City of Upper Arlington
3 years 6 months

Mayor & Council President
January 2024 - Present (1 year 6 months)

Council Member
January 2022 - Present (3 years 6 months)
Upper Arlington, Ohio, United States

Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP
Partner, Intellectual Property Transactions
August 2021 - January 2025 (3 years 6 months)
Columbus, Ohio, United States

Nationwide
Attorney
July 2018 - July 2021 (3 years 1 month)
Columbus, Ohio

Lead Patent counsel on the Intellectual Property Legal Team primarily focused on helping to drive innovation at Nationwide through protecting, building and commercializing its patent portfolio.

Dinsmore & Shohl LLP
Attorney
December 2017 - June 2018 (7 months)
Cleveland, Ohio Area

Focused on the protection, commercialization and maintenance of client's intellectual property portfolios. Managed international trademark portfolios for Fortune 100 companies: Conducted strategic, worldwide trademark clearance and audits, conducted due diligence for corporate mergers and acquisitions, drafted and reviewed a variety of intellectual property and commercial agreements

Helped to establish the Cleveland Office of Dinsmore & Shohl

McDonald Hopkins LLC
Attorney
October 2014 - December 2017 (3 years 3 months)
Cleveland, Ohio Area

Focused on the protection, commercialization and maintenance of client's intellectual property portfolios. Managed international trademark portfolios for Fortune 100 companies: Conducted strategic, worldwide trademark clearance and audits, conducted due diligence for corporate mergers and acquisitions, drafted and reviewed a variety of intellectual property and commercial agreements

Pearne & Gordon LLP
Attorney
August 2013 - October 2014 (1 year 3 months)
Cleveland, Ohio

Prepared and prosecuted patent applications in the mechanical and electro-mechanical arts. conducted searches and provided patentability opinions.

Fay Sharpe

Legal Intern

September 2011 - May 2013 (1 year 9 months)

Cleveland, Ohio

Prepared and prosecuted patent applications in the mechanical and electro-mechanical arts. Conducted searches and provided patentability opinions.

Parker Hannifin

Legal Intern

May 2012 - August 2012 (4 months)

Drafted and Reviewed invention disclosures within the Corporate Technology Ventures group.

World Intellectual Property Organization

Legal Intern

May 2011 - August 2011 (4 months)

Researched and Prepared Memoranda to assist in treaties and agreements between WIPO and Member States or other organizations as they related to contracts, international, administrative and constitutional law.

SCA - Hygiene and Forest Products Company

Process Improvement Manager

January 2006 - August 2010 (4 years 8 months)

Flagstaff, Arizona Area

Managed a team of 4 direct reports and 45 indirect reports - developed systems focused on efficiency, continuous improvement and cost saving strategies for the manufacturing operations and organization at large.

Georgia Pacific

Project Engineer

October 2003 - December 2005 (2 years 3 months)

Worked as a member of the Research & Development team on implementation, startup, product verification and qualification of large scale new product design projects

Education

University of Maine

BS, Mechanical Engineering · (2004)

Case Western Reserve University School of Law

JD, Intellectual Property Law

University of Massachusetts Lowell

MBA, Finance & Strategy