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IMMIGRATION

Immigration law 'bible' now in its 10th edition

■ The latest edition of a widely used immigration law textbook, written by a prominent Miami attorney, has been released.

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When former Venezuelan national guard Lt. José Antonio Colina was locked up at the Krome detention center in West Miami-Dade, he was desperate to understand the intricacies of U.S. immigration law so he could figure out a legal way to get out.

Colina invested \$300 and bought Miami attorney Ira Kurzban's *Immigration Law Sourcebook*, a thick compendium of immigration law clauses and cases.

Not only did the book help Colina understand his own case, but he says it inspired him to study immigration law.

By the time he was released in April, Colina — accused of

terrorism in Venezuela, a charge he denies — had become an immigration paralegal and was giving advice to dozens of fellow detainees.

* "That book kept me going while I was in detention because it clearly explained all the complexities of immigration law that I couldn't understand," Colina said Friday.

Some call it the "bible" of immigration law.

Others simply refer to it as the Kurzban book. But the large volume is a ubiquitous publication in immigration courtrooms, where attorneys, prosecutors and judges often refer to it.

The 10th edition of Kurzban's textbook came out in late June — a landmark event in immigration law circles.

Kurzban began publishing his textbook in 1990 as a way to organize his teaching notes. He's an adjunct professor at the University of Miami

The first book was 490 pages, the latest 1,363.

School of Law and the Shepard Broad Law Center at Nova Southeastern University.

"It's widely used now," Kurzban said. "It's kind of a phenomenon."

The first book was 490 pages long, but subsequent editions grew larger. The latest is 1,363 pages long.

It contains some of the most recent changes in immigration law and litigation, including requirements under the USA Patriot Act and the landmark case of Haiti-born Lionel Jean-Baptiste, the first naturalized American in recent times stripped of his citizenship after being convicted on drug-trafficking charges.