**Exercise 5:2 Guest Speaker**

**Consider two questions you would like to ask Eva Millona, based on the information below.**

**The Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA)** is the largest organization in New England promoting the rights and integration of immigrants and refugees. It serves the commonwealth’s one million foreign-born residents with policy analysis and advocacy, institutional organizing, training and leadership development, and strategic communications. The Coalition involves an active membership of [over 130 organizations](http://www.miracoalition.org/en/about-us/link-to-members), including community-based groups, social service organizations, ethnic associations, schools, refugee resettlement agencies, health centers, hospitals, religious institutions, unions and law firms, as well as thousands of individual members, contributors, and allies. MIRA provides members, policy makers, and the media with timely and accurate analysis of immigration law, policy, and budget items at both the federal and state levels. It is the only voice exclusively representing the rights and integration of the foreign-born on Beacon Hill, and the primary voice representing New England in the coordinated national effort to improve priorities on Capitol Hill.

**Eva Millona** has been with MIRA for over a decade. After joining in July 1999, she served as Director of Policy and Advocacy and then as Deputy Director before becoming Executive Director in December 2008. Prior to MIRA, Eva directed the resettlement program at Friendly House in central Massachusetts. In her native Albania, she practiced civil and criminal law, and, from 1989 to 1992, served as a judge on Tirana’s District Court. Eva is a graduate from Clark University and Tirana University, School of Law. Outside of MIRA, she is co-chair of the Governor’s Advisory Council on Refugees and Immigrants and sits on the U.S. Commission of Civil Rights. She received the 2009 “Outstanding American by Choice Award” from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service, the 2007 “Detention Attorney Award” from the Political Asylum Immigration Representation Project (PAIR Project), and the 2007 “Legal Professional Award” from the National Lawyers Guild.

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