2025 SOCIAL MEDIA AUDIT: PREPARING FOR THE VETTING CENTER

As of December 2025, USCIS mandates the disclosure of social media identifiers (handles) for all adjustment of status applicants. These are fed into the **Atlanta Vetting Center**, where AI-driven "sentiment analysis" and "risk scoring" are applied. Before you submit your application, conduct this 5-point audit to ensure your digital footprint doesn't trigger a fraud or security flag.

1. The "Consistency" Check (Employment & Education)

The Vetting Center's AI cross-references your **LinkedIn, GitHub, and Facebook** profiles against your **Form I-485** and your spouse's **I-864**.

- [ ] **Job Titles:** Does your current LinkedIn title match what you listed on your application?

- [ ] **Employment Gaps:** Are there any jobs listed on social media that you "forgot" to put on your form?

- [ ] **Education:** Does your listed university match your transcripts? Discrepancies here can trigger a **Material Misrepresentation** charge.

2. The "Relationship Timeline" Audit

For marriage-based cases, officers look for a "natural progression" of a relationship.

- [ ] **Status Updates:** Do your Facebook or Instagram relationship statuses match your marriage date? (e.g., still being listed as "Single" or "In a Relationship" with someone else after your marriage).

- [ ] **Photos & Tags:** Are there photos of you and your spouse together? Conversely, are there recent photos of you acting "single" or with ex-partners that could be misinterpreted by an AI bot?

- [ ] **Public Posts:** Does your "life story" online look like a couple living together?

3. The "High-Risk Keyword" Scan

The 2025 Vetting Center uses AI to flag "hostile intent" or "antisemitic/extremist activity" (as defined by **Executive Order 14161**).

- [ ] **Political Content:** Have you posted or "liked" content that could be interpreted as supporting extremist ideologies or hostile attitudes toward U.S. institutions?

- [ ] **Slang & Jokes:** Avoid jokes about "destroying" anything, "overstaying," or "working under the table." AI often fails to understand sarcasm or cultural slang.

- [ ] **Drug Use:** Even in states where marijuana is legal, any social media photos of drug use can lead to a finding of **inadmissibility** for "controlled substance" violations.

4. Privacy Settings & Disclosure

- [ ] **List All Handles:** You must provide every handle used in the **last 5 years**, including platforms like X (Twitter), Instagram, TikTok, Facebook, and foreign platforms (WeChat, VK, etc.).

- [ ] **Public Visibility:** Recent December 2025 directives suggest that keeping profiles "Private" during an active investigation may be viewed as an attempt to evade vetting. **Consult with an attorney before changing your privacy settings.**

- [ ] **Avoid Deletions:** Deleting your entire social media presence 24 hours before filing is a major "red flag" for fraud. It is better to have an honest, boring profile than a suddenly vanished one.

5. The "Third-Party" Footprint

You can't always control what others post, but USCIS sees it anyway.

- [ ] **Search Your Name:** Google yourself. What comes up?

- [ ] **Untag Yourself:** If friends have tagged you in "party" photos or controversial events that contradict your professional or marital image, untag yourself immediately.

A Note on the "First Amendment" in 2025

While you have a right to free speech, the 2025 vetting rules make it clear that a **visa is a privilege, not a right.** Information gathered from your "Online Presence" is routinely used to determine if you are a "positively contributing member of society."