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In Our
Second Century
of Service

IMMIGRATION ALERT

by [Giselle Carson](#), a Marks Gray attorney who practices primarily in the areas of immigration and naturalization and civil litigation.

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Members of House and Senate supporting E-Verify bill



September 8th will mark the official start date for most federal contractors and subcontractors to begin using E-Verify to obtain contracts from the federal government. The E-Verify system is a system designed to electronically confirm employee eligibility to work in the United States.

Some members of Congress are looking to expand E-Verify to all employers in the future. Representative Heath Shuler (D-N.C.) is one example of a House member who supports this E-Verify expansion. The Secure America Through Verification and Enforcement Act (Rep. Shuler is the lead House sponsor of this bill) would require E-Verify to be used by all employers, not just federal contractors.

[Click here to read The Secure American Through Verification and Enforcement bill.](#)

[Click here to read more about E-Verify and federal contractors and subcontractors.](#)

Webpage updates on horizon for USCIS

A redesigned USCIS.gov website will be available September 22nd to assist visitors navigate the site and help keep applicants up-to-date on the status of their case(s).

According to the USCIS website, four core principals were drivers of the new design:

- "A customer-centric home page that provides applicants with a 'one-stop shop' of immigration services information."
- "Simplified navigation and improved search capability."
- "Enhanced customer service tools including expanded Case Status Online with both email and text functionality."



Links of Interest

[Giselle Carson](#)

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[Prospective Immigration Client Questionnaire](#)

Just in!



As part of Thompson Reuter's Aspatore Books Immigration Legal series, Giselle Carson will be contributing to a book entitled, "*Inside the Minds: Counseling Clients on Worksite Enforcement.*"

The publishing date has not yet been released, but the book will be available at www.aspatore.com.

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- "Information that is written clearly and meets the needs of our customers."

USCIS will post updates on its progression toward the new site.

[Click here to read more about the website updates and design.](#)

New process for USCIS service centers

USCIS has released new customer service guidelines for individuals and groups inquiring about issues related to their cases.

The three steps for contacting USCIS service centers are outlined below. Please visit the link at the bottom for more detailed information and contact numbers and email addresses:

1. Contact the National Customer Service Center (NCSC) at 1-800-375-5283. Be prepared with your alien registration number, receipt number, and type and date of the application filed.
2. If it has been over 30 days since you spoke with a NCSC representative and the issue is still pending, email the appropriate USCIS Service Center for status updates (see link below for a listing of the four service centers and email addresses).
3. If you do not receive a response after 21 days of contacting the USCIS Service Center (step 2), you can email the USCIS Headquarters Office of Service Center Operations.

USCIS is attempting to standardize and streamline the customer service process through the above steps.

[Click here for more information about the new USCIS service center process.](#)

September Visa Bulletin released

The Department of State's (DOS) Visa Bulletin for September 2009 shows that employment-based (EB) third preference and third preference "other workers" categories continue to be "unavailable." Some of the professions affected by this limitation include nursing and most bachelor and non bachelor degree workers.

There was significant improvement for the China and India EB second preference categories dates which now show a cut-off date of January 8, 2005. Just a few months ago, the cut-off date for immigrants from these countries in the EB second preference category had retrogressed to January 1, 2000. No explanation was provided by the DOS for this change. However, since the end of the fiscal year is approaching, it is believed that the DOS is trying to ensure that all available immigrant visas are used.

[Click here for more information about the September Visa Bulletin.](#)

Immigration from Mexico to the U.S. lowest in 10 years



A recent study by the Pew Hispanic Center shows that immigration to the United States from Mexico is at its lowest point in 10 years.

Although this study shows that there has been a decline in immigration from Mexico to the United States, there does not seem to be an increase in the number of Mexican-born individuals moving back to Mexico from the U.S.

[Click here to read more about the Pew Hispanic Center study.](#)

Doughnut company in Houston forced to forfeit \$1.334

million to ICE

Assistant Secretary John Morton and U.S. Attorney Tim Johnson recently announced that Shipley Do-Nut Flour and Supply Company must pay a criminal fine of \$250,000, forfeit \$1.334 million to ICE and operate under court supervision for three years for harboring illegal aliens.

In addition to company president Lawrence Shipley III, three warehouse managers also pleaded guilty in 2008 to various charges relating to the hiring or continuing to hire illegal aliens.

In January of last year, ICE investigated the company using an analysis of its I-9 forms and Social Security Administration No-Match letters as well as through interviews with former employees.

[Click here to read more about the Shipley Do-Nut Flour and Supply Company case.](#)

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If you need assistance with any immigration-related issues, please contact Giselle Carson or Thyra Reveron at (904) 398-0900.

Marks Gray, P.A. is dedicated to customer service. We monitor proposed and current developments in the law. The contents of this newsletter are not intended as legal advice related to individual situations. If you have any questions about your particular situation, please contact a lawyer.



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