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Immigration Update

In the April 2011 Issue

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Secretary Napolitano Announces Launch of Self-Check



In an ongoing effort to curtail the employment of unauthorized workers, the DHS and the SSA have

launched "E-Verify Self Check", a voluntary program that allows workers and job seekers to check their employment authorization eligibility status against the government data and correct it, if there was a mistake, prior to or during their employment. Self Check is being rolled out gradually, only five states (not including Florida) and the District of Columbia are currently able to access this service. For more information click [here](#).

The Florida Legislature Could Make E-Verify Mandatory for All

The Florida Legislature is working on bills that would require all employers in the state of Florida to verify their employees' work eligibility status with the online tool E-Verify. An order signed by Governor Scott earlier this year requires all state agencies and contractors to use E-Verify. The bills would also allow law enforcement to request identification documents during an arrest. Click to follow the [House bill](#), and the [Senate bill](#).



Improvement on EB-2 Availability

Charlie Oppenheim, Chief of Immigrant Visa Control and Reporting Division at the US Department of State announced that there has been a decline in the number of filings for EB-1 visas. Because of this decline, nearly 12,000 additional numbers will be available for the EB-2 category. This news will be warmly welcomed by Indian and China nationals as the EB-2 visas for these two countries are highly backlogged.

U.S. Hispanic Population To Top 50 Million



The Census Bureau announced that the U.S. Hispanics accounted for 16.3 percent of the U.S. population at over 50 million. Racial and ethnic minorities are expected to make up an unprecedented 90% of the total population U.S. growth, and will form the bulk of our labor-force growth in the next decade. This population

change will likely result in the shift of 12 house seats and electoral votes affecting several states, including Georgia, Florida, Arizona, Nevada, Texas and California.

Ninth Circuit Upholds Preliminary Injunction Against Arizona SB 1070

The Ninth Circuit upheld the federal district court's July 2010 preliminary injunction that prevented segments of the Arizona law from going into effect because it violated the U.S. Constitution. One of the most criticized provisions of this law was the requirement that state and local police ask for proof of immigration status from individual stopped for a traffic violation or other civil infraction if they had a 'reasonable suspicion' that the person was in the U.S. in violation of the immigration law. To read the court's opinion, click [here](#).

USCIS Reminds Japanese Nationals Affected by Disasters of Available Immigrant Benefits

USCIS has offered several extraordinary benefits to Japanese nationals affected by the earthquakes, tsunami and nuclear disasters that began last month.



Extensions of status, certain grants of parole, expedited processing of forms and petitions and assistance to stranded LPRs who have lost their immigration documentation are included. To see an overview of these benefits, click [here](#).

Apps, Google, Websites, and Much More



I recently contributed to the Jacksonville Daily Record by writing an article titled "Google, Apps and much more" which highlights some very useful technological tools that are easily accessible, simple to use and in most instances, free! With thousands of products, websites,

software and smartphone "apps" at our fingertips, this article can help you decipher which ones will help you most in your business life. Click [here](#) to read the article.

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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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