

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)



Immigration Update

In the January 2010 issue

New Comprehensive Immigration Reform bill introduced in the House

New year will likely bring more I-9 audits

Pilgrim's Pride \$4.5 million agreement with ICE

Florida documentation requirements change for driver license and ID card

Update: processing times for your visas

Federal estate tax repealed for 2010: what this means to you

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Learn more about us...

[Giselle Carson bio](#)

[Immigration & Naturalization](#)

[About Marks Gray](#)

Dear Martha,

Happy New Year!

I hope you enjoyed the holiday season and are ready for a prosperous and healthy 2010. We are proud to announce our fresh new image at Marks Gray!

In addition to immigration news and updates, we would like to provide you with occasional tips about financial and estate planning tips. In light of recent estate tax developments, we have included a brief segment on this topic below.

If you have any suggestions for upcoming newsletter topics, or have any comments regarding the layout or content, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you!

Giselle Carson

New Comprehensive Immigration Reform bill introduced in the House

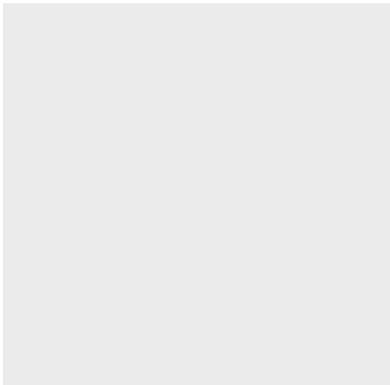


Representative Luis V. Gutierrez, (D-IL), introduced the Comprehensive Immigration Reform for America's Security and Prosperity Act of 2009 (CIR ASAP) in December to the House of Representatives.

The bill includes favorable provisions aiming to promote family unity and the legalization of undocumented persons. The provisions relating to employment-based immigration tend to detrimentally limit employers' involvement and flexibility in the process.

Included in the bill are designated sections for the following areas of immigration reform:

- Border security, detention and enforcement
- Employment verification
- Visa reforms
- Earned legalization program for the undocumented



- Strengthening U.S. economy and workforce
- Integration of new Americans

It is impossible to say if a CIR bill will be moving through Congress soon. At this time, the ongoing economic situation and the health care bill continue to be the priority. However, Sen. Charles Schumer (D-NY), who chairs the subcommittee on immigration, has begun an effort to build a bipartisan coalition in the Senate to promote a CIR bill.

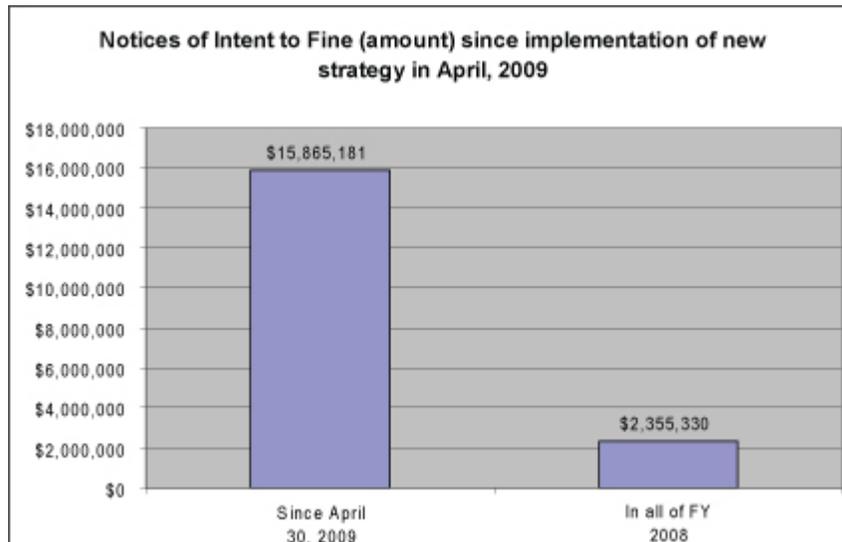
[Click here for a summary of the proposed bill.](#)

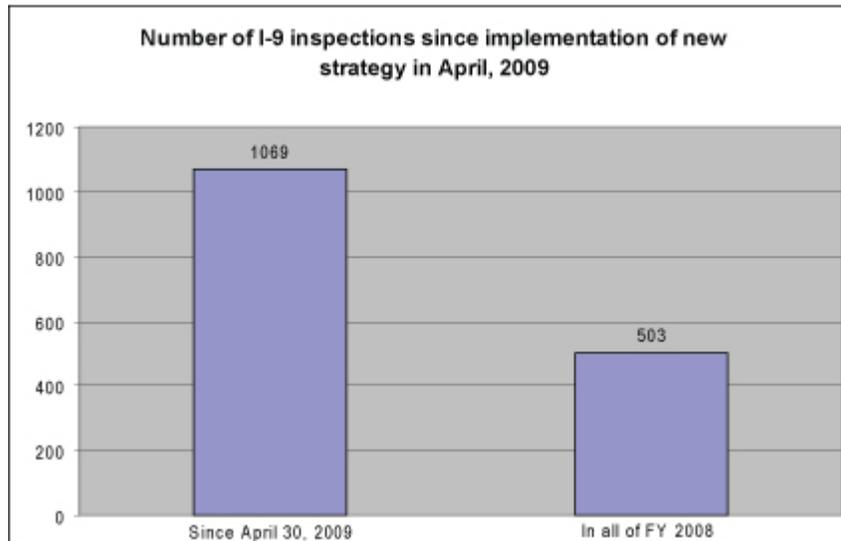
New year will likely bring more I-9 audits

The end of 2009 was an active one for the Immigrations and Customs Enforcement agency (ICE) and its push for employment verification through I-9 audits. ICE's Assistant Secretary John Morton issued 1,000 Notices of Inspection (NOIs) to employers all over the United States at the end of the year.

The audits consisted of a review of the I-9 forms, No-Match letters received, payroll records, tax paperwork and other employment verification documentation.

If 2009 is any indication of the commitment to these audits, 2010 will most likely see much of the same. A historical look at statistics shows that the administration plans to continue its enforcement at the employer level.





[Click here for more information and statistics about ICE's I-9 audits.](#)

Pilgrim's Pride \$4.5 million agreement with ICE

After an investigation that began in December of 2007, Pilgrim's Pride Corporation reached an agreement to pay \$4.5 million to the federal government for hiring and employing unauthorized workers in some of the company's Texas plants. In addition to the fine, Pilgrim's Pride has agreed to adopt certain company practices to ensure its work force is legal.

Various pieces of evidence were used in the case including the 2007 arrest of Social Security Account misuse by 25 unauthorized aliens and the 2008 apprehension of 338 unauthorized aliens.

[Click here to read more about this agreement.](#)

Florida documentation requirements change for driver license and ID card

Florida has implemented a new set of rules for individuals who are either renewing or obtaining a new driver license or ID card beginning January 1, 2010. When visiting the office, you must have original documents with you that prove your identity, Social Security number and address.

If you fall into one or more of the following categories, you must visit an office to renew or obtain your license or ID card:

- You are applying for your first ID card or driver license
- You current credentials have expired and you have already used your convenience renewal option (a one-time option)
- Your name has legally changed (for example: through marriage or divorce)

If you do not fall into any of the above categories, you may renew by mail or online.

[Click here for more information about the new Florida requirements.](#)

Update: processing times for your visas



U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) offers information about typical processing times for its list of service centers and types of cases filed. These times are estimates only - it may take more or less time to process your specific case.

To view these processing times, click on the link below and provide USCIS with the

information requested in the drop-down menus.

[Click here to visit the USCIS page for processing times.](#)

Federal estate tax repealed for 2010: what this means to you

Many of you may be thinking about planning for the future financially. If you have an estate valued at more than \$1 million, you might want to read on. Changes to the way certain estates are taxed are on the horizon and these changes may affect you and your family.

Contrary to what many believed would happen, Congress adjourned for the 2009 year without extending the federal estate tax meaning that, as the law currently stands, no such tax will be imposed on the state of anyone who dies in 2010. This creates even more uncertainty in estate planning for several reasons:

1. Leaders in Congress have vowed to reinstate the tax with an exemption equal to the \$3.5 million exemption that was in effect in 2009 retroactive January 1.
2. If Congress is not able to agree on a modification of the law in 2011, the estate tax will be reinstated with a mere \$1 million exemption.
3. The repeal of the estate tax, however temporary, also means the repeal of "carryover basis" at death for estates over \$1.3 million, with the result that
 - o Heirs are going to have to search through old tax records for purchase prices of stock or other assets, and
 - o They will pay capital gain taxes on sales after death, which may end up equaling more than the estate tax would have been.

Please contact either [John R. Crawford](#) or [Giselle Carson](#) if you have additional questions about the above information on the repeal of the estate tax.

Giselle Carson

Giselle Carson
Attorney at Law
Marks Gray, P.A.
1200 Riverplace Blvd., Suite 800
Jacksonville, FL 32207
(904) 398-0900
gcarson@marksgray.com

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.

[Forward email](#)

✉ [SafeUnsubscribe®](#)

This email was sent to mbruner@marksgray.com by gcarson@marksgray.com.
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Email Marketing by



Marks Gray, P.A. | 1200 Riverplace Boulevard | Suite 800 | Jacksonville | FL | 32207