



Immigration Bulletin



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Hello, and Welcome to our September Immigration Update!

This newsletter provides several pertinent updates including the long awaited new I-9, a new rule that will allow DHS to parole entrepreneurs of startup entities and links to immigration statistics for FY2016 such as the top fields for green card applications under the Labor Certification are computer and mathematics (57%). The top work state for foreigners is California (24%). The top occupations for H-1B visas are computer systems analysts and software developers (40%).

I am also sharing another of our Immigration Success Story. This one involving two clients who persevered to become naturalized U.S. citizens. As usual, your Marks Gray Immigration team and staff have also been busy supporting our Jacksonville community by participating in some impactful local events. We've included a few pictures of these events in the sidebar.

To stay updated on current immigration issues, we invite you to subscribe to our [blog](#).

Thank you for your readership, support, and referrals.

Cheers!

Giselle Carson

New I-9 Proposed

We've discussed this hot topic before, but we finally have updates regarding the new Form I-9. The proposed changes were approved the new form will soon be released to the public. The changes include "smart" features for error checking as well as several structural changes.

If you are an Employer, you may continue to use the current Form I-9 until January 22, 2017. The USCIS will publish the updated form

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Did You Know? Facts about Immigrants in America

Did you know that there are only 140,000 employment-based green cards available every year and that the per country cap results in high-skilled immigrants waiting for years, and sometimes decades, for a green card?

Employers and foreign workers face an annual employment-based green card cap and these limits often result in long waits for individuals from countries like mainland China, India, and the Philippines. This 140,000 quota also includes the visas for the spouse and dependent children of the high-skilled worker which further reduces the actual number of visas that are allocated to the principal workers. These wait times can be crushing for employers, individuals, and their families, forcing people to live in uncertainty for many years. If you are considering applying for a green card, you should consult with an experienced immigration attorney and begin the process as it is a long road ahead.

To learn more about this and other interesting facts about Immigrants in America, please read the full blog [post](#).

Immigration Success Story

We're continuing our series of Summer Success stories with two great tales of clients with extraordinary cases. Both became naturalized U.S. citizens with the assistance of our Immigration team. The clients' perseverance, hard work, and patriotism are an inspiration and testament to why we work so hard for our clients. To read the full success story, click [here](#).

DHS Proposes Rule for International Entrepreneurs

DHS has proposed a rule that would allow certain international entrepreneurs whose stay in the U.S. would provide a significant public benefit to be considered for parole on a case-by-case basis. Under the proposed rule, entrepreneurs who can show that their start-up entity has substantial and demonstrated potential for rapid business growth and job creation may be granted an initial stay of up to two years to oversee and grow their start-up entity in the U.S. Parole applications will be submitted on Form I-941 with a filing fee of \$1,200. Parole is revocable if USCIS determines that the parolee is no longer providing a significant public benefit.

Comments were being accepted on this proposed change until last week. We expect to publish an update soon.

To stay tuned into these changes, please click [here](#).

DOL Updates Labor Fact Sheets

In June 2016, the Office of Foreign Labor Certification posted updated program factsheets with third-quarter FY 2016 selected stats. Updated information includes:

Marks Gray Attends JaxChamber/JBA Suns Game Event



Marks Gray had a great time at the Jax Suns game in July. The event hosted by the Jacksonville Bar Association Health and Wellness Committee in partnership with the JAXChamber offered an exciting night of networking and baseball.

Giselle Moderates Panel at World Affairs Council Event



Giselle Carson served as the panel moderator for the World Affairs Council and Great Decisions Program Kickoff Dinner and Dialogue event. This year's event brought in over 175 people and was the biggest yet.

Marks Gray Hosts John Rutherford and the Hispanic Leadership Group



- H-2A Temporary Agricultural Visa
- H-2B Temporary Non-Agricultural Visa

All of these updates can be found [here](#).

October Visa Bulletin Shows Final Action Dates

The Department of State recently published their October 2016 Visa Bulletin. The publication shows final action dates for a handful of employment categories have been updated.

The EB-1 final action date was January 1, 2010, it has advanced to current.

The EB-2 for China has been January 1, 2010, however, it advanced to February 15, 2012.

To read the full Visa bulletin for additional updates, please click [here](#).

Marks Gray is always pleased to host roundtable discussions in an effort to better our community. We were pleased to welcome Congressman John Ruttenford prior his to Election Day. He had a lively chat with our local leadership group and has since gone on to win his election for Congressional Representative in District 4.

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