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IMMIGRATION UPDATE



In this Immigration Update, I am happy to share another success story - the approval of an O-1A, Alien of Extraordinary Ability petition. This approval has changed the lives of a family currently residing in a country with no opportunities.

I am also happy to report that the Department of State's (DOS) visa issues have been resolved and foreigners are now able to obtain visa stamps and begin their U.S. travel plans. More on these stories below.

We will take a break from publishing our Immigration Update in August. We look forward to continuing to provide you with the latest immigration news in September.

Please remember that the best compliment you can give us is a referral. Keep us in mind if you or others you know could benefit from our immigration services.

Thank you and enjoy the rest of your summer!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Giselle Carson".

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Verifying Green Cards without Signatures

USCIS issued an alert stating an increased number of green cards are being issued with the words "Signature Waived" in place of the lawful permanent resident's actual signature. Employers cannot reject these cards when presented during the I-9 verification process, as long as the card is valid, relates to the person presenting it and appears to be reasonably genuine. To read the alert, click [here](#).

Visa, Passport Computer Problems Mostly Resolved

On June 12, 2015, the DOS reported that there were significant technical problems with overseas passport and visa systems that halted their ability to issue visa stamps. The problems have been generally resolved, but issues still remain with access to some online immigrant visa application forms. The DOS has resumed scheduling visa interviews and issuing visa stamps. They anticipate that the visa backlog will be cleared soon. To read the announcement, click [here](#).



Changes in Processing E1 and E2 Visas in Mexico City

Recent increases in visa applications in Mexico City have made it difficult to offer efficient processing. As a result, the Mexico City Embassy is no longer processing E1 trader and E2 investor visas. E1 visa processing will be handled by the Consulate General in Monterrey and Tijuana. For additional information on the E1 changes, click [here](#). E2 visa processing will be handled by the Consulate General in Ciudad Juarez. For additional information on the E2 changes, click [here](#).

August 2015 Visa Bulletin



There was forward movement in most employment-based and family-based visa categories. The EB-3 and "Other Workers" categories for the Philippines are available. The EB-3 and "Other Workers" categories for China retrogressed due to high demand. To read the bulletin in its entirety, click [here](#).

Immigration Processing Times

USCIS Service Center - click [here](#).

Department of Labor - click [here](#).

Visa Application Wait Times for any Post - click [here](#).



NEW and NOTEWORTHY



Defense Verdict - Marks Gray, P.A. Attorney, Susan Erdelyi, and her team, obtained a defense verdict for our client after a challenging federal case re-trial on an employment discrimination matter. **Congratulations to Susan and her team!**

Immigration Success Story - We are very proud of having obtained the approval of an O-1A, Alien of Extraordinary Ability visa, for an International Manager and Expert in the field of international aftermarket technical and training solutions. The approval of challenging cases like this one motivates my immigration team and I to continue to advocate and strive for the best result for our clients. This case required extensive coordination, research and team work. It also included obtaining letters of support from several key experts from around the world to show the original and far reaching contributions of our client in his field and the case was approved without a request for additional evidence. We are thrilled for our client and his family.

Super Lawyers - Twelve Marks Gray attorneys, including myself, were selected as 2015 Florida *Super Lawyers* and *Rising Stars*. This recognition is a reflection of our hard work and dedication to our clients. Each year, *Super Lawyers* undertakes a rigorous, multi-phase selection process, that includes a statewide survey of lawyers, independent evaluations of candidates, a peer review of candidates by practice area, and a good standing and disciplinary check.

Super Lawyers®
RISING STARS

Speaking Engagement - I am honored to be a panelist on nonimmigrant visas at the upcoming American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) Fundamentals Conference, on August 6-7, 2015. For over a decade, the Fundamentals Conference has helped launch careers and provided a new direction for more than 1,600 attorneys.

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