O-1A Flowchart

Strategy Session

Assessment of position and background of beneficiary

Beneficiary completes immigration questionnaire and provides supporting evidence

Evaluation of evidence in support of beneficiary's extraordinary ability in the sciences, education, business, or athletics, such as:

- Receipt of significant recognized prizes/awards
- Published materials about the work of the beneficiary
- Significant original contributions to the field
- Judge of the work of others
- Author of scholarly articles
- Employment in essential capacity
- Member of association that requires outstanding achievements

Examples of evidence include: photographs, media coverage, endorsements, critical reviews, expert letters, awards, contracts, and others. Documents not in English may require a certified language translation.

Evaluation of other evidence / facts:

- Itinerary
- Employment agreement
- Immigration history and plans
- Current passport and visa
- Dependents
- Filing timeline

Preparation of O-1A petition and portfolio of supporting documents: employer support letter, advisory opinion letter, written statements from experts, published materials, etc.

Filing of O-1A petition with USCIS

Average processing time without RFE: *4-6 months*

Premium processing: *15 calendar days for an additional gov't fee*

O-1A Approval

If beneficiary is in the U.S. in valid nonimmigrant status, he or she can begin working for employer upon approval of the O-1A petition

If beneficiary is outside the U.S., our team will guide and assist with the visa application at U.S. Consular post abroad

*Extraordinary ability in the fields of science, education, business, or athletics is defined as a level of expertise indicating that the person is one of the small percentage who has risen to the very top of the field.

* This material is only a general overview of the O-1A process and is not intended to substitute as legal advice.

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