

CLIENT CONNECTION

A periodic newsletter for my clients on all things Immigration-related.



The First Edition of my newsletter!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1.1

USCIS UPDATES

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced earlier this summer, a proposal to require nearly 750,000 lawful permanent residents carrying "green cards" without an expiration date to replace their current cards.

1.2

CONSULAR ISSUES

Consular posts abroad will once again accept petitions for immediate relative immigrant classification from American citizens who are resident in their consular districts, including members of the armed forces, as well as true emergency cases, such as life and death or health and safety, and others determined to be in the national interest.

1.3

BUSINESS CORNER

Did you remember to file your U.S. business taxes? They are due on October 15 at midnight.

1.4

Q & A ... DID YOU KNOW?

You can travel while your Green Card replacement is pending, if you receive an I-551 travel stamp from your local USCIS district office.



Dear Valued Client! It is my pleasure to introduce my first newsletter to you. I am very excited about my new project to bring regular newsletters to you via email.

I will be bringing you informative content relating to immigration, updates on regulations and policy, current hot topics in U.S. immigration law, strategic considerations on planning and developing your own immigration plan, tips for business owners, job sponsors, and sponsoring family members, and more...

In an ongoing effort to increase my level of service to my clients, I am continuously on the lookout for ways to improve communication and keep you abreast of ongoing issues in U.S. Immigration Law.

Better Communication on its way.

Having recently jumped on the global, digital bandwagon of Blackberry users, you should start noticing improved response times, particularly when I'm away from my office... :-)

As I develop this newsletter, I will be taking in your feedback, com-

ments and suggestions, as well as particular wishes and requests that may surface.

New Fiscal Year 2008 is here!

Personally, I predict the new fiscal year, having just started in October to bring a busy time for U.S. Immigration: (1) Immediately following a substantial rate hike in July, and some interesting teeter-totting regarding I-140 petitions and I-485 adjustments, USCIS is finding itself overwhelmed with an unexpected onslaught of filed petitions to deal with; (2) the U.S. government is facing ever-increasing pressure to move forward on the long overdue Comprehensive Immigration Reform; (3) I-9 compliance and enforcement will be taking a more pronounced role; (4) enhanced inter-agency communication among U.S. agencies will impact the way foreigners travel and navigate through the immigration process.... the list could go on.

Rest assured that I will keep on top of these issues and continue to keep your best interest in mind and at heart.

Across the Pond and back again.

I have just returned from a week-long trip to the United Kingdom, where I met with various professional organizations in Edinburgh, Birmingham and London. It was a very purposeful and successful trip, and

many great new connections were formed. I particularly enjoyed very animated discussions about Foreign Policy, Immigration, Financial Markets, Subprime Lending, Banking practices, much of which seems to affect both countries similarly on either side of the Atlantic. One person remarked that “when the United States sneezes, Great Britain catches the cold.”

While in the UK, I had the pleasure of conducting some immigration seminars, accompanied by a small panel of experts from other professional areas, including real estate, accounting, and financial advising. These seminars tend to remind me why I do what I do. I love my job. It is every client’s individual life story and their motivation to move some aspect of their life and livelihood to the United States.

It is the client, much like yourself that gives Immigration Lawyers, like myself, the unique opportunity and privilege to serve you and to assist you in achieving your objective.

Where has 2007 gone?

As we enter the final quarter of the year, please take a look around you, at the people you know, whether they are family, friends, colleagues, or mere acquaintances; maybe they have similar visions or goals but have not taken that crucial first step. Many people simply put things off indefinitely, and weeks go by, then months, then years... encourage them to seek the advice of an Immigration Lawyer. If they need other kinds of legal advice, have them seek out a lawyer who specializes in or focuses their practice on that particular area. Many of us do not like to carry unfinished business from one

year over to the next. On the other hand, many of us like to begin the new year by taking bold, new steps, with a sense of urgency or accomplishment.

If there is anything I can do for you, or if you know anyone to whom I may possibly be of service, let me know. I will be glad to help in any way I can.

Green Card Lottery is back!

By now, many of you may have already received an email message from our office, notifying you that the annual Green Card Lottery is once again in progress.

While I regret that not every client is able to participate, I do encourage those who are, to indeed participate... Every year we know of or meet clients who have won the Green Card and have been able to move to the United States. This year could be YOUR lucky year. It does not hurt to try.

If you have NOT received an email message from us, please let me know if you would like to participate in the Lottery, and I will notify you of where and how to submit your entry.

Have you been to our site lately?

Depending on whether you visit our website regularly or not, you may have noticed that our website got a make-over earlier this year. Most recently our entire staff had its annual photo shoot and the pictures have been updated.

Also, please keep a regular eye out for more content to be added, announcements to be made, as we enhance our site for your benefit.

Here in the U.S. on a business visa?

For my business clients who are here on work/business visas, I do strongly recommend that you try to see me once every quarter to update me on the state of your business, as this may be crucial for future extensions, renewals or other immigration benefits we may apply for in the future.

It’s good time to become a U.S. Citizen.

Currently, the USCIS is taking approximately 6 months to complete an average application for U.S. citizenship. Depending on how you obtained your Green Card, you may have to wait 3 or 5 years to be eligible to file your N-400. However, in many instances, you can file about 90 days before your “wait time” is up. Many countries also allow for dual citizenship, for those who do not wish to relinquish their old nationality in favor of U.S. citizenship. Schedule an appointment to discuss your individual situation.

Your Comments and Feedback are important to me.

I am seeking all sorts of input from you, from how you like the newsletter, to how I may improve it, what things you would like to read about, what other information you might find useful or helpful, what steps I can take to serve you better, what steps we as a firm can take to serve you better, or anything else that may be on your mind.

I am here to serve you and as your immigration lawyer I am committed to assisting you however and whenever I can. Please do not hesitate to call on me for your needs or for those whom you know may need my help.

Sincerely and respectfully Yours,



Steven A. Culbreath, Esq.