



**** Breaking News from the Hassonjee Law Firm



Increases in H-1B and L-1 Fees

Petitioners must submit an additional fee of \$4,000 for certain H-1B petitions and \$4,500 for certain L-1A and L-1B petitions postmarked on or after December 18, 2015. These additional fees apply to petitioners who employ 50 or more employees in the United States, with more than 50 percent of those employees in H-1B or L (including L-1A and L-1B) nonimmigrant status. These petitioners must submit the additional fees with an H-1B or L-1 petition filed:

- Initially to grant status to an H or L nonimmigrant; or
- When a petition is filed for an H or L nonimmigrant to change employers

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Benefits for I-140 Beneficiaries

New USCIS regulations will provide greater benefits and work authorization flexibility to certain I-140 Beneficiaries:

- Allow certain high-skilled individuals in E-3, H-1B, H-1B1, L-1, or O-1 nonimmigrant status to apply for one year of unrestricted employment authorization if they:
 1. Are the beneficiaries of an approved I-140 petition,
 2. Remain unable to adjust status due to visa unavailability,
and

3. Can demonstrate that compelling circumstances exist which justify issuing an employment authorization document.
- Improve job portability for certain I-140 beneficiaries by limiting the grounds for automatic revocation of an approved I-140 petition by the employer.

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Tips on filing an H-1B Petition

U.S. businesses use the H-1B program to employ foreign workers in occupations that require highly specialized knowledge in fields such as science, engineering and computer programming.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) will begin accepting H-1B petitions subject to the fiscal year (FY) 2017 cap on April 01, 2016.

The cap on new H-1B visas for FY 2017 is 65,000. The first 20,000 H-1B petitions filed for individuals with a U.S. master's degree or higher are exempt from the 65,000 cap.

USCIS expects to receive more petitions than the H-1B cap during the first five business days of this year's program. The agency monitored the number of petitions received and notified the public when the H-1B cap has been met. If USCIS receives an excess of petitions during the first five business days, the agency uses a lottery system to randomly select the number of petitions required to meet the cap. USCIS then rejects all unselected petitions that are subject to the cap as well as any petitions received after the cap has closed.

Immigration Updates

The quickest and easiest way to keep up-to-date on all your immigration concerns. Click on the topics for additional information.

[Congress funds and extends certain Immigration Programs. Congress extends EB5 Investor Visa Program, Conrad 30 Program and Special Immigrant Non-Minister Religious Worker Program.](#)

[USCIS redistributes workload of I-140 and I-485 cases between Texas and Nebraska Service Centers](#)

2 Tier System of Filing Adjustment of Status applications

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