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Immigration News Update

June 11, 2010

Welcome to Immigration News Update, your resource for the latest developments in U.S. immigration laws, procedures, and breaking news. Immigration News Update is published bi-monthly by Bashyam Spiro, a firm committed solely to the practice of Immigration and Nationality Law. To further explore what is happening in immigration across our nation and the world follow us on Twitter and Facebook.

Have an immigration question? Direct message your questions to us on <u>Twitter</u>. Your answers may be featured in our next *Immigration News Update!*

To hear what our clients and staff say about our firm, please click here.

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Bashyam Spiro LLP handles U.S. immigration cases in all 50 states and around the world. We are located at The Summit Building, 4101 Lake Boone Trail, Suite 200, Raleigh, North Carolina 27607. Telephone: 919-833-0840. Web Site: www.bashyamspiro.com.

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FREE Upcoming Webinars

Bashyam Spiro LLP – Immigration Law Group brings you a monthly series of **FREE** educational Webinars on **immigration law topics** that you can access from anywhere.

Upcoming web events:

6-16-2010 - H-1B 'Right To Control' RFEs: What to Expect and How to Answer Them

6-23-2010 - B-1/B-2 Visitor Visas to United States: How to Apply and What to Expect

7-21-2010 - I-134/I-864 Affidavit of Support: How Much Money is Enough?

8-4-2010 - How to Sponsor your Parents for Permanent Residency

To register please visit: http://www.bashyamspiro.com/seminars-training.aspx

USCIS Updates H-1B Cap Count

The United States Citizenship and Immigration Service updated its H-1B cap count on May 28, 2010. Here are the numbers:

Regular H-1B Cap: 20,800

U.S. Masters H-1B Cap: 8,700

The H-1B numbers are moving very slowly this year. Employers can continue to file new H-1B cases for their foreign professional employees.

We will provide additional updates on www.bashyamspiro.com.

USCIS Issues Revised Employment Authorization Document (EAD)

<u>U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)</u> announced that it has revised the Employment Authorization Document (EAD), or Form I-766, to incorporate the addition of a machine-readable zone on the back of the card.

Starting May 11, USCIS began issuing the revised EAD cards. USCIS also removed the two-dimensional bar code on the backside of the card and moved the informational box of text beneath the magnetic stripe on the card. The revised card retains all of its existing security features.



This update to the EAD is part of USCIS's ongoing efforts to deter immigration fraud.

CARD VALID FROM 04/01/00 EXPIRES 04/02/10

NOT VALID FOR REENTRY TO U.S.

Stay tuned to www.bashyamspiro.com for additional updates.

DOS Amends Fees for Consular Services

The Department of State (DOS) issued an interim rule amending the Schedule of Fees for Consular Services for nonimmigrant visa and border crossing card application processing fees. The rule raises fees from \$131 to \$140 for processing applications for most non-petition-based nonimmigrant visas (Machine-Readable Visas or MRVs) and adult Border Crossing Cards (BCCs). The rule also provides new tiers of the application fee for certain categories of petition- based nonimmigrant visas and treaty trader and investor visas (all of which are also MRVs). Finally, the rule increases the BCC fee charged to Mexican citizen minors who apply in Mexico, and whose parent or quardian already have a BCC or is applying for one, to \$14.

This interim final rule will become effective on June 4, 2010. To read the entire post in the Federal Register, please click here.

USCIS Proposes Filing Fee Increase

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is seeking public comment on a proposed federal rule that would adjust fees for immigration benefit applications and petitions. The proposal, posted to the <u>Federal Register</u> today for public viewing, would increase overall fees by a weighted average of about 10 percent but would not increase the fee for the naturalization application.

The proposed fee structure would establish three new fees, including a fee for regional center designations under the Immigrant Investor Pilot Program, a fee for individuals seeking civil surgeon designation and a fee to recover USCIS's cost of processing immigrant visas granted by the Department of State. The proposed fee structure also reduces fees for certain individual applications and petitions as a result of lower processing costs.

Our office believes that fee increases should be followed by improvements in service. As this has not occurred in the past following fee increases, we doubt it will happen now. If anything, increasing fees in a slow economy will just result in few applications and revenues for the USCIS.

To view the proposed new filing fees, please click HERE. We will provide additional updates on www.bashyamspiro.com.

Latest Bashyam Spiro Blog Post

In our latest *Immigration-Meditation* blog post, Bashyam Spiro's Managing Partner, Murali Bashyam, describes how people who have dedicated their lives to helping others and a line from the classic film, *It's A Wonderful Life*, inspired him to establish mutually beneficial relationships with friends and organizations worldwide to create a <u>non-profit organization</u> dedicated to providing the support necessary for people and communities to help themselves.

Learn more about how <u>Friends Unite</u> to make a difference by reading this inspirational blog post at: http://www.bashyamspiro.com/immigration-meditation/

HELPFUL LINKS

To access some helpful immigration related web sites, please click here.

To schedule a consultation, please send an email info@bashyamspiro.com or click here.

To learn more about Bashyam Spiro LLP, please visit www.bashyamspiro.com.

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