



Minsky, McCormick & Hallagan, P.C.

A Full-Service Law Firm Dedicated To All Aspects of U.S. Immigration & Nationality Law

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NEWSLETTER

1.) U.S. Department of State Releases the Visa Bulletin for April 2010

On March 15, 2010, the U.S. Department of State (DOS) issued the Visa Bulletin for April 2010. Both the India and China EB-3 categories advance by a couple of months from the previous month's bulletin. The China EB-3 category priority date advanced to February 1, 2003, and the India EB-3 category priority date advanced to September 8, 2001. In addition, Section D of the April 2010 Visa Bulletin provides insight on how visa numbers are allocated for both the family and employment based categories. http://www.travel.state.gov/visa/frvi/bulletin/bulletin_4747.html

2.) FY 2011 H-1B Cap Filing Season Opens on April 1, 2010

Just as a reminder, please be aware that the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will begin accepting Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 H-1B cap petitions starting on April 1, 2010. Although MMH does not anticipate the rapid exhaustion of H-1B numbers on the first day of availability as in past years, employers should still strive to file their FY 2011 H-1B nonimmigrant petitions as soon as possible in order to ensure the greatest likelihood of H-1B availability for their workers. If you have any questions about the FY 2011 H-1B season, please contact your designated MMH Attorney.

3.) U.S. Department Of Homeland Security Announces the Designation of Greece as the Newest Member of the Visa Waiver Program

On March 9, 2010, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security announced that Greece will join the 35 nations already participating in Visa Waiver Program (VWP) which was established as a pilot program in 1986 to help eliminate unnecessary barriers to travel and made permanent on October 30, 2000. Like VWP visitors from other countries, Greek citizens will be eligible to visit the United States without visas for up to 90 days.

http://www.dhs.gov/ynews/releases/pr_1268162593062.shtm

4.) Senators Schumer & Graham Call for Immigration Reform in an Editorial in The Washington Post

On Friday, March 19, 2010, Senator Charles Schumer and Senator Lindsey Graham published an editorial in The Washington Post presenting their blueprint for immigration reform legislation. The outline of their proposal rests on four pillars: ending illegal employment through biometric Social Security cards, enhancing border and interior enforcement, managing the flow of future immigration to correspond to economic realities, and creating a tough but fair path toward legalization for the 11 million people currently in the U.S. without authorization. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/03/17/AR2010031703115.html?hpid=opinionsbox1>

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