



## Immigration Law Update



The Ryan, Swanson & Cleveland Seattle Immigration Group is committed to providing excellent service and efficient communication to our clients.

### **October Visa Bulletin: Backlog Update**

The new visa bulletin for October has been issued showing more backlogs than previously expected. Especially of note are the retrogressions in the EB-3 category; for instance, EB-3 India has been moved back to July 1, 2001. We urge all clients who wish to pursue permanent residence to submit their PERM applications as soon as possible to secure a priority date. PERM backlogs are currently between three and six months, with PERM audits taking up to one year to process.

### **Citizenship Changes**

On October 1, 2008, USCIS began using a new set of test questions for the civics exam. Those who file after October 1 must use the new set of test questions. If you are planning on applying for citizenship, be advised that you will need to study the new questions and answers. The new test can be found at <http://www.uscis.gov/files/nativedocuments/100g.pdf>.

### **Employment Authorization Documents Delayed**

The USCIS Ombudsman reports a number of complaints about EADs taking longer than 90 days because of the large number of renewals which are being filed now that last summer's surge of applications are expiring. If you have a renewal coming up in the next six months our advice is to file as soon as possible. If you have already filed and more than 70 days have passed, call us for advice on how you can obtain your EAD by the 90<sup>th</sup> day.

### **2010 Diversity Immigration Visa Lottery**

55,000 permanent residency visas are up for grabs in a lottery that begins on Thursday, October 2, 2008 and ends on Monday, December 1, 2008. If you or anyone you know wants permanent residency in the U.S. be sure to visit the Department of State website (<http://www.dvlottery.state.gov/>) to learn more about the lottery. We have had clients win this lottery in years past. We do not know anyone who has won the Reader's Digest Sweepstakes. Registration is online, paper applications are not accepted. Register early because the system does not always respond well near the end of the lottery when everyone is trying to register.

### **Ryan Swanson Update**

We are happy to introduce to you our new logo and firm website, [www.ryanswansonlaw.com](http://www.ryanswansonlaw.com). While our look has changed, we remain dedicated to providing you with the top quality legal counsel and service you know and expect. Our understanding of your goals and challenges – and our ability to help you see around corners to anticipate future needs – remains the same. Our firm name also remains the same, while our new mark, brand and ad campaign will continue to reflect how you already know us – as Ryan Swanson.

We also welcome your comments and suggestions as we always look forward to serving our clients in the most expedient and efficient manner.

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