



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

June 1, 2009

Must Have Travel Documents as of June 1, 2009

On **June 1, 2009**, U.S. citizens returning home from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean or Bermuda, by land or sea, will be required to present one of the travel documents listed below. By obtaining one of these documents now you will ensure you are ready to travel later.

- **U.S. Passport** – This is an internationally recognized travel document that verifies a person's identity and nationality. It is accepted for travel by air, land and sea.
- **U.S. Passport Card** – This is a new, limited-use travel document that fits in your wallet and costs less than a U.S. Passport. It is only valid for travel by land and sea.
- **Enhanced Driver's License (EDL)** – Several states and Canadian provinces/territories are issuing this driver's license or identification document that denotes identity and citizenship. It is specifically designed for cross-border travel into the U.S. by land or sea.
- **Trusted Traveler Program Cards** – NEXUS, SENTRI or FAST enrollment cards can speed your entry into the U.S. and are issued only to pre-approved, low-risk travelers. The cards are valid for use at land or sea; the NEXUS card can be used in airports with a NEXUS kiosk. [read more](#)

H-1B Numbers Are Still Available

The U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS) is still accepting H-1B petitions for employment beginning October 1, 2009. The cap is 65,000 and as of May 22, 2009, approximately 45,700 H-1B cap-subject petitions have been received, leaving 19,300 H-1B numbers still to be taken. Although USCIS has received approximately 20,000 H-1B petitions for holders of U.S. Master's degrees, it is still continuing to receive U.S. Master's H-1B petitions. If you are still interested in filing a cap-subject H-1B petition, please contact us.

Although the published numbers indicate that almost 20,000 H-1B numbers may still be available, we encourage you to submit H-1B petitions as soon as possible if you are considering filing an H-1B petition for work starting on October 1, 2009.

Ryan Swanson Attorneys Speaking at AILA Conference This Week

The American Immigration Lawyers Association will hold its national conference this week. Joel Paget will be speaking on "Corporate Changes: Immigration Status and Options" and Janet Cheetham will be speaking on "New Developments for TN and NAFTA Applications." Stay tuned for updates on immigration laws announced by the government agency speakers at the conference.

Please contact us if you have any questions:

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