



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

October 2010

### **USCIS Final Rule Adjusting Fees for Immigration Benefits Announced**

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) recently announced a final rule adjusting fees for immigration applications and petitions, effective November 23, 2010. While the final rule will not increase the fee for the naturalization application, the remaining overall fees will rise by an average of 10%. However, fees for six individual applications and petitions will be reduced and the rule will expand the availability of fee waivers to new categories. Click [here](#) for more information.

### **2012 Diversity Visa Lottery Program Registration Period Opens October 5**

The Department of State's DV-2012 Diversity Visa lottery program registration period will open on Tuesday, October 5, 2010. Entries for the lottery must be submitted electronically between 9:00a.m. on Tuesday, October 5, 2010 and 9:00a.m. on Wednesday, November 3, 2010, Pacific Daylight Time. Registration is available [online only](#) and it's free! Before you register you may want to consult with an immigration attorney!

### **Expect Delays at USCIS Service Centers...**

Processing times at USCIS service centers are increasing. Failure to file a petition or application at least four months in advance could cause hardship to the applicant. If the original validity period expires after the filing of the petition/application, the beneficiary should be able to stay and work in the U.S. on certain nonimmigrant visas. However, they will not be able to leave the U.S. and return until after the petition/application is approved. Also, many states restrict their driver's licenses to the validity period of the status which means the driver's license will expire before an approval is received. Best to file early!

### **Welcome Reception for Canadian Consul General in Seattle Well Received**

Joel Paget was among fellow Canada-America Society members who welcomed new [Canadian Consul General](#) Denis Stevens to Seattle last week. Consul Stevens spoke on the business opportunities among Canadian and U.S. companies and the increasing difficulty individuals are experiencing entering the U.S. for business. If you are experiencing any difficulty in entering the U.S., please contact us.



Your Seattle Immigration Group at Ryan Swanson. (Photo taken at recent group strategy session)

Please contact us if you have any questions:

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