



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

Immigration Law Update

February 7, 2011

Act Now: H-1B Specialty Occupation Visa

The H-1B visa is very popular with employers who are hiring foreign nationals with college degrees, or equivalent experience. Unfortunately, Congress has allotted only 65,000 H-1B visas, plus 20,000 for those holding a Master's Degree, for each federal fiscal year. This year the numbers ran out in January.

New applicants will have to wait until October 1, 2011 to begin work on an H-1B visa. **The first day an employer can file for a visa is April 1, 2011**, but it takes time to prepare the petition. Because of the time needed to prepare the petition, it is important to start considering filing for current employees on student employment status or potential new employees.

With the stronger economy there may be a large number of petitions filed on April 1 or shortly thereafter. In years past, such large numbers meant there was a lottery conducted where only 40% of the early filings were accepted for processing by the USCIS. Do not wait until it is too late.

Janet & Joel Listed as Best Lawyers

Joel Paget and Janet Cheetham were each listed among Washington's "[Best Lawyers 2011](#)" in the January issue of *Seattle Business Magazine*.

Selection to the Best Lawyers list is based on a peer-review survey comprising more than 3.1 million confidential evaluations by the top attorneys in the country.

Welcome Skylen Koh Wilder!

Immigration paralegal Allison Koh Wilder gave birth to a boy on January 31, 2011! All are doing well.

Welcome Melynda Zimmerman!

We are happy to welcome Melynda Zimmerman, a recent graduate from the University of Arizona, to the Immigration Group as our new Department Assistant.

Please contact us if you have any questions:

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