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December 2014 Barnett Law Group Breaking News

As we bid farewell to 2014 here's a recap of the year's top immigration stories. We, at the Barnett Law Group, hope your holidays have been merry and that 2015 will be your best year yet! See you next year!

House's Failure to Act on Immigration Reform

After the Senate approved S. 744, its immigration bill, in 2013, this year started with hope that the House would take action as well. In January 2014, Speaker Boehner released the House Republicans' principles of immigration reform, but those guidelines did not lead to a renewed push for reform.

The President's Executive Action on Immigration

The biggest immigration story of the year didn't come until nearly Thanksgiving when President Obama announced on November 20 his "immigration accountability executive action," which ranged from new temporary immigration protection for many unauthorized parents of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents to highly technical regulatory proposals to fix outdated visa provisions. These actions are temporary and reflect the limits of executive authority, serving as little more than a Band-Aid until Congress approves a long-term solution.

Central American Families Fleeing Violence

The number of unaccompanied minors arriving on U.S. borders has risen at a concerning rate in the past few years, but it peaked this summer when tens of thousands of immigrant children and women arrived at our southern border after making the harrowing journey from Central American and Mexico to the north. The White House asked Congress for additional funding for an aggressive border enforcement strategy while also setting up a temporary detention facility in Artesia, New Mexico. The facility holds the mothers and children who arrived and allows the government to fast-track their deportations despite the fact that many are seeking safety from the death threats, rape, and other abuses in their home countries.

DACA Renewals Begin

June 15 marked the two-year anniversary of President Obama's announcement of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program, meaning also that many of the original beneficiaries began renewing their temporary two-year work authorization. Under the President's Executive Action a new crop of DACA's may file applications in late February.

Ongoing Border Patrol Abuses

A newly released report obtained through FOIA, shows that more often than not complaints of abuse filed with CBP result in no action taken against the accused Border Patrol agents.

If you are interested in learning more about these new developments, please contact our firm at (713) 980-9939 or psb@barnett-lawgroup.com. Don't delay to renew DACA and tell your friends who have not yet applied to contact our firm!