



## February 2015 Barnett Law Group Breaking News

### **Executive Orders for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)& Deferred Action for Parents of American and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA)**

On November 20, 2014, the President announced that, within 90 days, USCIS would expand the **Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program (DACA)**. This means more people may request deferred action under DACA when the program is expanded. If you receive deferred action, you may be able to stay in the United States temporarily without fear of deportation. In addition, you will be considered for employment authorization, which would allow you to work legally in the United States, for a three year period.

USCIS is not accepting requests for expanded DACA at this time. USCIS is preparing to accept requests under the DACA expansion on February 18, 2015.

On November 20, 2014, the President announced that, within six months, USCIS would begin accepting requests also for **Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA)**. If you receive deferred action under DAPA, you may be able to stay in the United States temporarily without fear of deportation. In addition, you will be considered for employment authorization, which would allow you to work legally in the United States, for a three year period.

USCIS is not accepting requests for DAPA at this time. USCIS is preparing to launch the DAPA program in mid-to-late May of this year.

### **Why Should I Apply for DACA or DAPA?**

- Protection from deportation, but does not give you any type of legal status or path to permanent residency;
- Work permit so you can legally work;
- Valid Social Security Number;
- File U.S. Taxes and possibly qualify for Earned Income Tax Refunds for up to 3 years – potentially thousands of dollars!
- State ID card and/or a Driver's License;
- Register your car and apply for other licenses, such as a business license;
- Open a bank account easier;
- Safer travel within the U.S. with State ID or Driver's License;
- Travel outside of the U.S. only with USCIS issued Travel Permit!
- With work permit, possibly earn more money and get more workplace protections;
- Collect the documents needed for possible immigration reform;
- You don't have to share your family's information on the application and you own information will not be used to deport in most cases;
- DACA/DAPA may be renewed for another 3 years.

Beware: Many organizations will be "jumping on the bandwagon" with offers of low-cost immigration assistance. You should never file for any U.S. immigration benefit without reviewing your entire immigration history with a qualified Immigration & Naturalization Attorney. What you don't know can hurt you! The Barnett Law Group, PLLC offers 28 years of Board-Certified Immigration & Naturalization experience.

*If you are interested in learning more about these new developments, please contact our firm at (713) 980-9939 or [psb@barnett-lawgroup.com](mailto:psb@barnett-lawgroup.com).*