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June 2014 Barnett Law Group Breaking News

Hello! We hope that the summer is going well for everyone and their families!

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Renewals: The Department of Homeland Security has announced the new process of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) renewal. As of April 2014 over 560,000 individuals have received DACA. The first DACA approvals will begin to expire in September 2014. To avoid a lapse in the period of deferral and employment authorization, individuals must file renewal requests before the expiration of their current period of DACA. USCIS encourages requestors to submit their renewal requests between 120 days (four months) and no more than 150 days before their current period of deferred action expires. Individuals may request DACA renewal if they continue to meet the initial criteria and these additional requirements: (1) did not depart the United States on or after August 15, 2012, without advance parole; (2) have continuously resided in the United States since they submitted their most recent approved DACA request; and (3) have not been convicted of a felony, a significant misdemeanor or three or more misdemeanors, and do not otherwise pose a threat to national security or public safety. The renewal process begins by filing the new version of Form I-821D "Consideration of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals," Form I-765 "Application for Employment Authorization," and the I-765 Worksheet. There is a filing and biometrics (fingerprints and photo) fee associated with Form I-765 totaling \$465. As with an initial request, USCIS will conduct a background check when processing DACA renewals.

Surge of Children at Mexican-American Border: Late last week, the Obama administration asked Congress for 1.4 billion dollars to help house, feed and transport the tens of thousands of children being caught trying to cross the border illegally, and turned to the Defense Department to help temporarily house more than 1,000 of the children. In a presidential memorandum issued Monday, President Barack Obama described the situation in stark terms and appointed the head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Craig Fugate, to lead the government's response. In the past eight months alone, 47,000 children have been apprehended at the southwest border.

U.S. Mission to Nigeria Announces Expanded Drop Box Visa renewal Program: The United States Mission to Nigeria is pleased to announce the expanded DHL Drop Box Visa Renewal Program on June 9, 2014. This program allows certain visa applicants who have previously been issued U.S. visas to renew their visas without attending an interview, such as B1/B2 visas that have expired no more than two years prior to reissuance and F, L and H visas that have expired no more than one year prior to reissuance.

Customs and Border Protection Entry/Exit Transformation: Customs and Border Protection (CBP) continues to improve our current biographic entry-exit system. CBP already collects nearly 100% of all departure data from foreign nationals who depart the United States via air and sea ports of entry. CBP is building on this by partnering with Canada to exchange entry information, so that entry information collected by one country is recorded as an exit for the other. Similar discussions have just started with the Government of Mexico. CBP's goal is to have all entries and exits recorded and available online for the past 5 years.

First Annual Immigrant Heritage Month: The campaign, an initiative of Welcome.us, seeks to emphasize the power of immigrants to our nation's history and future, and to call for stories that help celebrate our unique immigrant heritage as a country. The focus for June, is on telling some of the stories that shaped this country. More Information can be found at Welcome.us.

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