



May 2015 Barnett Law Group Breaking News

Latest Court News on Executive Immigration Action

The Fifth Circuit has tentatively scheduled the next oral argument session on the federal government's bid to lift a block on President Obama's deferred deportation policies created by his executive actions for the week of July 6.

The appeals court will weigh whether to rule in favor of the 26 states who oppose implementation of the Obama Administration's expansion of deferred deportation or the federal government on the merits of the government's appeal. The government has asked the appeals court to stay a Texas court's Feb. 16 injunction on the two new immigration policies — the expansion of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program for immigrants who came to the U.S. as minors, as well as the creation of a similar program for certain immigrant parents, known as DAPA — which allow certain immigrants to defer deportation and apply for work authorization.

Numerous groups have filed "Friend of the Court" briefs including the Major Cities Chiefs Association; Judicial Watch; Texas Governor Greg Abbott; the [American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations](#); three unauthorized immigrant mothers; Church World Service; the American Federation of Teachers, New York Mayor Bill de Blasio; the [American Civil Liberties Union](#) of Nevada; a number of states; as well as numerous bipartisan members of Congress.

Whether there will be a resolution of the Obama Administration's Executive Action proposals before the 2016 Presidential election is not guaranteed. Already various candidates for President are weighing in on immigration reform.

What Can You Do Now?

1. **File under 2012 DACA Program**— If you are a young person who entered the U.S. prior to the age of 16 and were under the age of 30 on June 15, 2012; have a high school diploma or GED; have lived in the US continuously since June 15, 2012; and have no serious criminal convictions, you could qualify for a grant of deferred deportation and issuance of a work card for 2 years. A work card will allow you to obtain a restricted Social Security Card, a Driver's License, the chance to attend college or work lawfully, and freedom from fear of deportation.
2. **Find out more about your Immigration History** - We see people every week who have a way to obtain lawful permanent residence under existing U.S. immigration law. Many of these folks have U.S. citizen or Permanent Resident spouses, children, or parents. Some have had petitions filed for them or their parents in the past. Some of these people entered the US on a Visitor's Visa or a Border Crosser Card. Most have no criminal records. Our law firm can analyze your immigration history or help you obtain your records from the government to determine if you qualify for an immigration benefit.
3. **Continue your education** — If you are currently in school keep it up and graduate. If you left high school without a diploma, enroll in an accredited GED program. Your education will benefit you no matter what happens with U.S. immigration law.
4. **Get the Facts on U.S. Immigration Law** – There are a lot of myths about immigration law. Have you heard that undocumented aliens can gain Permanent Residence through "Anchor Babies"? That foreign workers bring down U.S. workers' wages? That Foreign Students are all terrorists in waiting? Do you agree that the Constitution should be changed to abolish birth right citizenship? People are surprised to find out the facts behind the above notions. We've had people tell us that once they knew the "rest of the story" that they wished everyone was so informed.
5. **Contact Their State or Federal Representatives** - Make your voice heard on U.S. immigration law. If you have employees, relatives, or friends who are not U.S. citizens their immigration status may be in jeopardy from proposed state and federal laws. Your representative wants to know what his or her constituents think. They answer to the electorate. Let them know your opinions. **If you are interested in learning more about these new developments, please contact our firm at (713) 980-9939 or psb@barnett-lawgroup.com.**