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October 2013 Barnett Law Group Breaking News

The Reopening of our Government is Eminent

It has now been two weeks since the U.S. Government shut down. As an immigration firm, our focus is on the agencies that administer the immigration laws; of these, Custom and Border Protection, U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services, Immigration & Custom Enforcement, and U.S. immigration courts for detained cases in some form are all operating. Detention centers and removals also continue. Congress has mandated that 30,000 detention beds remain full. However, many of the agencies that input immigration benefits have been closed: Department of Labor, USCIS Ombudsman, Deputy Justice Office of Special Counsel, Executive Office for Immigration (Immigration courts) and E-verify.

Immigration Reform 2013 News

Although the nation is in the midst of a government shutdown over partisan politics, there are still millions of Americans standing on the frontlines fighting to keep immigration reform alive. It is estimated that 50,000 individuals participated in the national day of action October 5th at more than 150 sites in 40 cities to pressure Congress to act before the end of the year.

President Barack Obama said on Tuesday, October 16 that stalled immigration reform would be a top priority once the fiscal crisis has been resolved. He also stated that there was a very strong Democratic and Republican vote in the Senate and that the only thing right now that was holding it back was Speaker Boehner not willing to call the bill to the floor of the House of Representatives.

2014 H-1B Visa Deadline

The H-1B non-immigrant visa is available to foreign workers who are employed by U.S. companies in specialty occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise in specialized fields, such as business, engineering, and computer fields. The USCIS places strict quota requirements on the number of H1-B visas that are issued each year. According to the USCIS, the statutory cap of 65,000 H-1B visas for fiscal year 2014 was reached within the first week of the filing period, which ended on April 5, 2013. It is estimated that the 2015 H-1B quota will be reached on the first day of filing April 1, 2014. Applicants and their employers are strongly advised to prepare the H1-B visa as soon as possible in order to ensure that the USCIS has received the visa application by April 1, 2014 when the quota is expected to be reached.

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