



October 2014 Barnett Law Group Breaking News

EB-5 Visa Shortage Causes rush for Houston Developers, Chinese Investors

A federal visa program that allows foreign investors to immigrate to the U.S. is running out of 2015 visas for Chinese nationals. Houston developers are scurrying to register projects with the EB-5 visa program before what's left of the 2015 allotment of visas is used up on the backlog of 2014 applicants. The rush from the developer side stems from the desire to tap Chinese immigrant investment in raising capital, which has been rising at a feverish pace across the nation. The number of EB-5 visas issued to Chinese nationals in the first eight months signifies a 300 percent increase in the visas issued for all of 2013. While Mexico still takes the top spot for EB-5 investment activity in Houston, China is quickly moving up the ranks. Nationally, China now accounts for 85 percent of all EB-5 visas in the U.S. The original designation for China from the State Department was only 7 percent.

2016 Diversity Immigrant Visa Program (DV-2016) Overview

The Congressionally mandated Diversity Immigrant Visa Program is administered annually providing immigrant visas for a class of "diversity immigrants," from countries with historically low rates of immigration to the U.S. For fiscal year 2016, 50,000 diversity visas (DVs) will be available. There is no cost to register for the DV program. Applicants who are selected in the lottery ("selectees") must meet simple, but strict, eligibility requirements in order to qualify for a diversity visa. Selectees are chosen through a randomized computer drawing. Diversity visas are distributed among six geographic regions and no single country may receive more than seven percent of the available DVs in any one year. The following countries are not eligible to apply, because more than 50,000 natives of these countries immigrated to the U.S. in the previous five years: Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, China (mainland-born), Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Haiti, India, Jamaica, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, South Korea, United Kingdom (except Northern Ireland) and its dependent territories, and Vietnam. Persons born in Hong Kong SAR, Macau SAR, and Taiwan area eligible. Application must be received by Nov 3!

DHS to Implement Haitian Family Reunification Parole Program

Starting in early 2015, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will begin implementation of a Haitian Family Reunification Parole (HFRP) Program to expedite family reunification for certain eligible Haitian family members of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents of the U.S. Under this program USCIS will offer certain eligible Haitian beneficiaries of already approved family-based immigrant visa petitions, who are currently in Haiti, an opportunity to come to the U.S up to approximately two years before their immigrant visa priority dates become current.

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) Extended

Eligible Hondurans and Nicaraguans must file to re-register for TPS during the 60-day period that runs from Oct. 16, 2014 to Dec. 15, 2014 in order to receive an additional 18 months stay in the U.S. with a work card.

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!