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Volume VII Issue 2



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Immigration News Update

February 24, 2011

Welcome to our February Immigration Newsletter!

Our [website](#) has been a premier source of the latest immigration news, procedures and information for well over a decade. In an effort to help you, we are redesigning our site to help you access this immigration information in a more efficient manner. As the redesign process moves forward, we want to hear from you!

Please take the time to complete this simple [survey](#) and tell us what you like or dislike about our current website, and provide suggestions on how we can make our website better.

It's through your input that we can best help you stay abreast of the latest immigration news, visa options and immigration procedures.

Here is the survey: <http://www.bashyamspiro.com/blog/bashyam-spiro-web-survey/>

It'll take less than 5 minutes to complete it - and we'd love to hear from you.

Sincerely,

Murali Bashyam

Bashyam Spiro LLP - Managing Partner

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Webinar: Latest Trends in the PERM Labor Certification Process

A PERM labor certification is typically the first step in an employer-sponsored permanent residency application. Over the past 15 years, our office has seen this process go through many changes. Our Senior Immigration Paralegal, [Pam Prather](#), recently wrote an enlightening article exploring the latest trends in the PERM labor certification process.

If you are an employer or foreign national employee and want the latest tips, trends and best practices in the PERM labor certification process, you should take a moment to [read the article](#) and [register for our next Webinar](#), where our attorneys will be giving you an inside look into the PERM Labor Certification process and answering your most frequently asked questions LIVE.

Date: Wednesday, March 2, 2011

Time: 12:30 PM - 1:00 PM EDT

Registration Web Link:

<https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/322878851>

These web events are easy to participate in. Participants only need a telephone and a computer with an Internet connection.

The Wait Continues - March 2011 Visa Bulletin

U.S. Department of State released the March 2011 Visa Bulletin. Here's the breakdown on how things have changed since February.

Employment-Based Category Two (EB-2):

China – advanced 7 days

India – did not advance

Employment-Based Category Three (EB-3):

All Other Chargeability Areas – advanced 3 months

China – advanced 21 days

India – advanced 21 days

Dominican Republic – advanced 3 months

Philippines – advanced 3 months

Mexico – advanced 6 months

As you can tell, visa availability hasn't changed much in the last one month. The biggest mover was Mexico in the EB-3 category. The EB-2 category for Chinese and Indian nationals seems to be stuck in 2006. So the wait continues...

[View the link](#) to the *Visa Bulletin* on our [Immigration News Blog](#).

Client Success Story: Naturalization



By [Ame Coats](#), Senior Counsel

Congratulations to our client Daniel S. for a successful interview last week on his application for naturalization! Our office also handled Daniel's permanent resident application, so we know him very well.

When Daniel asked me about becoming a US Citizen, I was afraid that he would not be able to pass the English and Civics tests required for Naturalization because of a pre-existing disability. However, I told Daniel about a waiver of the English and Civics knowledge requirements available to those who can show that they have a disability which prevents them from learning this knowledge or demonstrating their knowledge.

In order to apply for the waiver, the naturalization applicant must file Form N-648, Medical Certification for Disability Exceptions, which has been completed by a qualified medical professional. I was concerned that even if we submitted a properly completed N-648 form for Daniel, USCIS might decide that Daniel simply hadn't tried hard enough to learn English since he had lived in the US for over 30 years. For this reason, it was crucial that Daniel's doctor take the time to give a detailed explanation in layman's terms as to how Daniel's disability prevented him from learning English.

Our office consulted with the doctor to make sure that the

doctor understood the importance of explaining Daniel's disability and its effect on his ability to learn languages. Our efforts paid off - the N-648 was approved without incident. Daniel is scheduled to take his oath for US Citizenship in just a couple of weeks!

One Card to Serve as EAD and AP?

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced that it is now issuing employment authorization documents (EAD) and advance parole (AP) travel authorization on a single card for certain applicants filing an [Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status](#), Form I-485. We think this is an excellent move by USCIS!

[Read more](#) details about the card on our [Immigration News Blog](#).

Immigration Reform: Here We Go Again?

In our latest [Immigration-Meditation](#) blog post, Bashyam Spiro Managing Partner, [Murali Bashyam](#), provides his thoughts on the latest attempt by Senators Chuck Schumer and Lindsay Graham to revive comprehensive immigration reform. [Visit our blog](#) to read more and to [share your comments](#) and experiences.

We're Moving

We are moving to a new office located at [3737 Benson Drive, Dorchester Village, Raleigh, NC 27609](#). It is conveniently located off of Wake Forest Road, just north of the I440 beltline.

We hope to be there by the end of March!

We will be sure to keep you posted periodically on our progress and we will let you know when we move in. Stay Tuned!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Although TN processing has become more complicated and unpredictable in recent years, it still remains the best avenue for Canadians and Mexican nationals to work in the United States.

Recently, the [Canadian Expat Network](#) (CEN) asked attorney Murali Bashyam to write an [article](#) exploring the latest trends in the TN NAFTA visa process. This is important to members of CEN who use the TN visa process as Canadian nationals to enter and work in the United States. Some have experienced increased scrutiny and inconsistent TN adjudications at the port-of-entry.

Because there are so many questions surrounding the TN NAFTA visa process, we decided to educate the public on the trends and procedures associated with the TN application process by hosting a live webinar. We will walk attendees through the latest trends in the TN

process, and answer your questions in real time.

Title: *Webinar: NAFTA TN Visa Basics*

Date: Wednesday, March 16, 2011

Time: 12:30 PM – 1:00 PM EDT

CLICK [HERE](#) to Register!

If you are thinking about applying for a TN visa, you should [register for this free webinar](#) or [speak with an experienced immigration attorney](#) first. They can help make sure that you qualify for TN status, and help you prepare the application to ensure the best chance of success.

HELPFUL LINKS

To [Consult](#) with an Attorney

You may [contact](#) our Office to schedule a one-time paid consultation with no further obligation. A [scheduled consultation](#) with an attorney at Bashyam Spiro LLP provides you with details and recommendations based on the specific facts of your case. This will help you with making the right decisions based on the legal options and strategies available.

Connect with Us

To further explore what is happening in immigration across our nation and the world follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) or take a look at our [Immigration Minute How To Videos, Webinars and Podcasts](#) on subjects like the I-601 Hardship Waiver, K-3 Visa application process, and the Pros and Cons of Fiance & Spouse Sponsorship.

Have an immigration question?

Visit our [Practice Areas](#) page and tell us what you want to know. Your answers may be featured in our next *Immigration News Update!*

Immigration Resources

To [read](#) and [hear](#) what our clients and staff say about our firm, please click [here](#).

For the latest on USCIS bulletins and updates, subscribe to our [Immigration News Blog](#).

To access some helpful immigration related web sites, please click [here](#).

To schedule a consultation, please send an email info@bashyamspiro.com or click [here](#).

To learn more about Bashyam Spiro LLP, please visit [our website](#).

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[Immigration and Nationality Law](#). Bashyam Spiro LLP handles U.S. [immigration cases](#) in all 50 states and around the world.

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