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Don't Forget Your Passport!

As we alerted you in our [December 7, 2006 Immigration Advisory](#), commencing tomorrow, January 23rd, the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) goes into effect. The WHTI requires citizens of the United States, Canada, Mexico and Bermuda to present a passport to enter (or reenter) the United States when arriving by air from any part of the Western Hemisphere. Children will also need a passport.

In addition to a passport, the following documents will continue to be acceptable for their current travel uses under WHTI: A U.S. Permanent Resident Card, an asylee or refugee document, NEXUS Air Card or the U.S. Coast Guard Merchant Mariner Document. In addition, members of the U.S. Armed Forces on active duty traveling on orders will continue to be exempt from the passport requirement.

U.S. Citizens may apply for U.S. passports by visiting the [State Department's travel Web site](#) or by calling the U.S. National Passport Information Center at (877) 4USA-PPT or (888) 874-7793 (TDD/TTY). Additionally, instructions for obtaining a passport are available through the [U.S. Postal Service Web site](#). Instructions are available for expediting passport applications for immediate international travel.

Please note that the passport requirement does **not** apply to U.S. citizens traveling to or returning directly from a U.S. territory. In those circumstances, U.S. citizens are not considered to have left the United States and do not need to present a passport. U.S. territories include the following: Guam, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Swains Island, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

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If you would like more information on any immigration matter, please contact your immigration attorney at Mintz Levin or go to www.mintz.com.

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