

Immigration 101

October 10, 2024, 12:30pm Eastern Women's Bar Association of Massachusetts

Zoom: (https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82045256634?pwd=AOdp1Xz1OSEPVbHmciZtQNESgd1ZH7.1

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Immigration 101: Four Categories of Immigration

- Family
- Work
- Humanitarian
- Immigration Court
- Investments



Immigration 101: Types of Immigration Benefits

Permanent

- Conditional Permanent
 Green Card
- Permanent Green Card
- Asyl<mark>u</mark>m
- Refugee Status
- US Citizenship

Temporary

- Tourist Visa
- Student Visa
- H1B Visa
- L Visa
- OPT
- Haitian Parole
- Ukrainian Parole
- Temporary = 2 weeks to 3 decades or more



Immigration 101: The Only Family That Matters

- Spouse
- Children
- Parents
- Siblings



Immigration 101: Types of Work That Matter

- High tech
- Highly educated
- Highly specialized
- Physicians and nurses
- Artists, scientists, businesspeople
- Certain lower-level workers
- Certain nonprofit (usually university/hospital/research employees)

NOT EVERYONE IN THESE GROUPS CAN GET VISAS



Immigration 101: Humanitarian and Court

- Asylum
- Refugee status
- Children without a parent in US
- Temporary Protected Status: El Salvador; Haiti; Yemen (15 countries)
- Parolees: Ukraine, Afghanistan
- Certain long-time residents of the US (only in court)



Immigration 101: Investments

Temporary Visas

- Available to citizens of certain countries who start or buy business that will create jobs (even a few) in the US

 OR
- Entrepreneurs with over \$250,000 from qualified investors

Green Cards

• Available for investments over over \$900,000



Immigration 101: For Employers

Hiring practicesDiscrimination

- - Immigration Status
 - Country of Origin
- Are you authorized to work in the US?

• I-9 Practices

- Discrimination
- Document inspection
- Document acceptance
- Social Security Numbers



Immigration 101: For Employers Who Want to Sponsor

- It is not easy: This is not for the faint of heart!
- Candidate
 - Near perfect immigration history in US
 - Disqualifications for certain criminal violations

• <u>Job</u>

- Only certain jobs qualify for most temporary visas
- Visa usually ends up being tied TO THE JOB, ROLE, and EMPLOYER
- Process: Long-process; lotteries, limits, certain start dates



Green Cards: More Info

- Ways to Get "Green Card"
 - Qualifying Family Member (easiest situation is marriage to a US citizen or through a US citizen child who is over 21)
 - Qualifying Employment ("EB")



Ways to Get a "Green Card"

- EB1
 - Extraordinary ability
 - Self-petition allowed
 - Outstanding Researcher/Professor
 - Requires job offer
 - Requires Company to have qualifying affiliation with teaching institution
 - Multinational Manager or Executive
 - Requires job and non-US experience in the same company
 - This is not for starting new site in US



Ways to Get a "Green Card"

• EB2

Advanced Degree

5 years' work experience or master's degree/PhD
Requires "PERM" (testing US market for availability of US qualified workers—low bar for qualified US workers)

Exceptional AbilityLower standard than EB1

- Requires "PERM" (testing US market for availability of US qualified workers—low bar for qualified US workers)
- National Interest Waiver
 - Lower standard than EB1, but requires a national interest showing
 - Allows for self-petition



Ways to Get a "Green Card"

• EB3

- Requires "PERM" (testing US market for availability of US qualified workers—low bar for qualified US workers)
- Generally, college degree or years experience for job
- Skilled Workers
- Professionals
- Unskilled Workers



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