



# Long, Chang & Associates, L.L.P.

## Immigration Attorneys

Phone (336) 855-5700 ♦ [www.longchangonline.com](http://www.longchangonline.com)

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IMMIGRATION NEWSLETTER

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Attorneys  
[David J. Long](#)  
[Kristen A. Chang](#)

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### **This Month's Featured Article**

#### **Employment-Based Immigration Update: "I've Heard About the October 2005 Visa Bulletin. Now What?"**

##### **\*Part Two of a Two Part Series\***

The Department of State recently published the [October 2005 Visa Bulletin](#). The Visa Bulletin provided shocking news with respect to visa availability (or, in this case, unavailability) for many employment-based immigration categories. In particular, the October 2005 Visa Bulletin announced cut-off dates on a worldwide basis in the Employment-Based Third Preference (EB-3) work visa categories. This essentially means that (unless Congress acts to increase the numbers of visas available for employment-based immigration categories) there will be very long delays for all EB-3 categories.

As news of the EB-3 problem has spread throughout the immigration community, our immigration law office has received numerous calls from immigrants and has met with numerous clients to discuss exactly what the October 2005 Visa Bulletin announcement means for individuals seeking immigrant visas ("green cards") through employment.

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**Phone: (336) 855-5700**

**Fax: (336) 855-7111**

**Email: [info@longchangonline.com](mailto:info@longchangonline.com)**

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**4915 Piedmont Pkwy., Suite 103  
Jamestown, NC 27282**



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## **E-B Immigration Update (Continued from Page 1)**

In last month's article, we discussed 6 Frequently Asked Questions on this topic:

- 1. What is the Visa Bulletin and why is it so important?**
- 2. Where can I find the Visa Bulletin?**
- 3. What does it mean if there is a cut-off date for a particular employment-based immigration category?**
- 4. What employment-based categories have cut-off dates?**
- 5. What is a priority date and how can I determine what my priority date is?**
- 6. How long will it take for the cut-off date in the EB-3 category to become current?**

To read that article online, please visit our website's Article page at <http://www.longchangonline.com/Articles.asp> and click on the link to our September 27, 2005 article.

In this month's article, we address some additional Frequently Asked Questions on this topic.

- 1. I have an employer that is filing a labor certification for me. How do I know what employment-based category (EB) my case falls under?**

Employment-based immigration is divided into the following 5 main categories. The category under which a beneficiary is classified is determined at the time the I-140 Petition is filed and is determined by the job's requirements. For example, if the job being offered in the labor certification case requires a Master's Degree, then the case will fall under the EB-2 category (for advanced degree holders). If the job requires a bachelor's degree, it will fall under the EB-3 Skilled Worker category. If the job requires less than 2 years of training or work experience, the job will be classified under the EB-3 Other Worker category. A "special immigrant religious worker" filing for a green card based on an approved I-360 Petition will be classified under the EB-4 category. A detailed listing of the 5 employment-based (EB) categories can be found online at <http://www.longchangonline.com/PermanentVisas.asp/#employment>.

- 2. How does PERM (the new labor certification system) affect my case?**

PERM (the new labor certification system which went into effect on March 28, 2005) allows you to get a faster decision on a labor certification case (e.g., approval or denial). If approved, the employer can file a Form I-140 Petition. Once approved, the I-140 Petition will "lock in" the beneficiary's priority date usually as of the date the labor certification case was originally filed. It is important to note that a priority date is not locked in until the I-140 Petition is approved.

Although PERM will result in faster approvals in many labor certification cases, it has the unfortunate effect of actually contributing to the backlog or unavailability of many EB categories. Why? Because as the number of labor certification approvals increases under PERM, the number of EB immigrant visas has actually decreased this year as opposed to the past several years. This means that the demand for immigrant visas (green cards) is now far exceeding the number of available immigrant visas (green cards) for the current fiscal year.

- 3. I am an F-1 student working under Optional Practical Training. How will this news affect my immigration status?**

F-1 students are in a difficult situation as a result of the backlog or unavailability of green cards in the EB-3 category and the fact that the H-1B cap has already been reached this year.

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Typically, F-1 students graduate from college and work for up to 1 year under Optional Practical Training (OPT). During that year, many of them find a company that will sponsor them for an H-1B position. Unfortunately, the H-1B cap has already been reached for the current fiscal year (October 1, 2005 to September 30, 2006). As a result, the option of changing from F-1 OPT to H-1B is not currently available for most students (unless they have a master's degree from a U.S. college or are not otherwise subject to the H-1B cap). Moreover, many F-1 students have only a bachelor's degree and thus will fall under the EB-3 category where the backlogs are most severe.

### ***4. I am a religious worker and want to file for a green card based on my religious work. How will this news affect my case?***

Religious workers have two employment-based immigration options: (1) traditional labor certification; or (2) I-360 Special immigrant Religious Worker.

Under the first option, a religious worker can follow the traditional labor certification route and file a labor certification / green card case under the EB-2 or EB-3 category. The job and its requirements determine whether the position is classified as EB-2 or EB-3 (see Question 1 above). Many religious ministers will fall under the EB-2 category since the position of pastor often requires a Master's Degree, thus resulting in an EB-2 classification. As of the November 2005 Visa Bulletin, the EB-2 category is "current" for all countries except China and India. This means that if a religious worker has an approved labor certification and the job will be classified under the EB-2 category (as opposed to the EB-3 category), then the religious worker can file for an immigrant visa (green card) at the present time. Note, however, that the EB-2 category may become backlogged at some point next year. As a result, the ability to file for a green card under the EB-2 category may not last much longer.

Under the 2<sup>nd</sup> option, certain religious workers can seek to be classified as a "Special Immigrant Religious Worker". This requires the filing of a Form I-360 Petition. Before a religious worker can seek classification as a "Special Immigrant Religious Worker", he must be able to prove that he worked in a religious capacity for the preceding 2 years. Upon approval of the I-360 Petition, the religious worker generally can file for the immigrant visa (green card) under the EB-4 category. The main advantages of the EB-4 category are that no labor certification approval is required and there are no backlogs in this category.

### ***5. My adjustment of status (I-485) has already been filed under the EB-3 category. How does the new cut-off date in the EB-3 category affect my case?***

Once the adjustment of status (I-485) application has been filed, your case will remain pending as long as the backlog in your EB category is in effect. In essence, your case will be put on hold at the immigration office where you filed. In some cases, however, USCIS will send out Requests For Evidence (RFEs) which require you to respond with information in order to keep your case active or ongoing. It is very important to respond fully to these requests. Although USCIS cannot approve your green card case until your priority date becomes current, it can still deny your case for failure to respond to a Request For Evidence (RFE).

Assuming your case was filed before the backlog took effect, you can obtain an employment authorization document (EAD) which will allow you to work while your application is pending. In addition, you **may** be able to file for an advance parole document allowing you to travel outside the U.S. and to return **if** you were in valid immigration status at the time you filed your adjustment of status and had not accrued any unlawful presence. Before applying for advance parole, you should seek competent legal advice to determine if in fact you are eligible for advance parole. The important thing to remember is that an employment authorization document (EAD) and an advance parole document each have expiration dates and you must be sure to extend them as necessary. For example, the typical employment

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authorization document is valid for one year at a time. Since the backlog in many EB categories is expected to last for several years, you may have to extend the EAD so that you remain authorized to work.

Finally, if you get married prior to the approval of your adjustment of status (green card) case, your spouse may be able to file and obtain his or her green card at the same time as you.

### **6. *What should I do now?***

You should consider all options available to you and strive to maintain your status as best you can. This may mean that you will have to change your non-immigrant visa status or extend your non-immigrant visa status. In addition, as noted in Question 5 above, you may be able to file for an employment authorization document (EAD) if you have a pending adjustment of status. If you are the beneficiary of an approved labor certification case, you may consider having your employer file the I-140 Petition on your behalf in order to lock in your priority date. Also, you may look into the possibility of filing another labor certification case with a job that falls under the EB-2 category.

Finally, if you have a priority date already, you should monitor the Visa Bulletin to see the movement under your particular EB category. Although there is not expected to be much forward movement in priority dates in the upcoming months, there are recent discussions in Congress which would increase the number of immigrant visas made available in the EB immigration category. If legislation is enacted in this regard, then there could be significant improvements in the availability of immigrant visas in the EB categories.

### **7. *Is there any hope of a new law which will improve the current situation?***

On October 20, 2005, the Senate Judiciary Committee discussed a proposal which would increase the number of immigrant visas available in the EB categories as well as the H-1B Visa category. A key provision under discussion would allow beneficiaries of an approved labor certification to file for the green card even if numbers were unavailable or backlogged. Final approval still would not take place until the immigrant visa becomes available under this proposal, but it would allow these beneficiaries to file for an employment authorization document (EAD) while they wait. In addition, the U.S. Senate also discussed President Bush's guest worker proposal this past week.

It is important to note that these proposals have not yet become law, but our law firm will monitor the situation and post important updates on our website at [www.longchangonline.com](http://www.longchangonline.com).

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## **Frequently Asked Questions About F-1 (Student) Status**

The F-1 visa is designed to allow foreign students to come to the United States to study at a U.S. educational institution. As of March 31, 2005, there were 78,435 students in F or M status from South Korea. This makes Korea the top country for sending students to the United States. These students count for 13.08% of the total foreign student population in the United States. Korea is followed by India with 12.11%, China with 9.41%, Japan with 8.68%, and Taiwan with 5.23%.

Following are a few of the frequently asked questions we have received regarding F-1 status:

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### **1. What is SEVIS?**

SEVIS is an acronym for Student and Exchange Visitor Information System. It is a computer system responsible for issuance of Form I-20s (for F-1 and M-1 students and their dependants) as well as Form 2019 (for J-1 foreign nationals). In addition, the SEVIS system is responsible for monitoring the status of students and exchange visitors (and their dependants) in F, J or M status. SEVIS went into effect in January, 2003. Information in SEVIS is shared among various agencies, including the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of State.

### **2. Can F-2 dependant children work or attend school?**

F-2 children cannot work and cannot attend college (post-secondary school), but may attend private elementary and private secondary schools.

### **3. Can F-2 spouses work or attend school?**

F-2 spouses cannot work, and cannot attend school full-time at any level. If an F-2 spouse attends school on a part-time basis, it must be vocational or recreational in nature.

### **4. What documents are required to obtain an F-1 visa?**

- o A completed visa application Form DS-156.
- o Form DS-157 is required in certain instances (some consulates require a DS-157 for all visa applicants).
- o One recent photograph 1 & 1/2 inches square (37mm x 37mm) of each applicant, with the entire face visible. The picture should be taken before a light background and without head covering.
- o A passport, valid for travel to the United States for at least six months longer than the applicant's intended visit.
- o A letter of admission from the school the applicant plans to attend.
- o A signed Form I-20A-B.
- o Proof that the applicant has the economic funds to partake in study in the U.S.
- o Demonstration of nonimmigrant intent.
- o Additional documents and Visa Application Fees as determined by the U.S. Consulate or Embassy abroad.

### **5. Is it possible to change status from B-2 to F-1?**

Technically speaking, the answer is "yes" – a B-2 non-immigrant may change status to F-1. The application likely will be scrutinized due to intent issues. If the USCIS determines the B-2 non-immigrant had the intent to study or enroll in school prior to entering the US, the change of status to F-1 may be denied. If the USCIS determines the intent to study was formed after the foreign national came to the United States, then (assuming all other eligibility requirements are met) the B-2 can change status to F-1. Note, however, that if the individual then travels abroad and wants to re-enter the U.S. in F-1 status, the foreign national will need to obtain an F-1 visa outside the United States. The consular officer could deny the F-1 visa if he determines that the student misrepresented his intentions in obtaining his B-2 visa or in entered in the U.S. as a B-2 visitor. Nevertheless, the B-2 foreign national who files for a change of status may not enroll in school until the change of status is approved. If a request for change of status is made during the foreign national's first thirty days in the U.S., there is a strong presumption that the foreign national misrepresented his true intentions when he applied for the visa or when he entered the U.S.

### **6. What does 'D/S' stand for on my I-94?**

When a student is admitted to the United States as an F-1 student, he will receive a Form I-94 marked "D/S". This means that the F-1 student is authorized to remain in

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the United States for the duration of his status, i.e. the period of time it takes for the student to complete the education program, plus any authorized practical training and an additional 60 days.

### **7. Can I study on a part-time basis in F-1 status?**

Generally speaking, no. F-1 students are generally required to attend school on a full-time basis, which is defined as 12 credit hours per semester. In limited instances, the Designated School Official (DSO) can authorize a reduced course load (less than 12 hours), but the student must first obtain permission from the DSO or risk falling out-of-status.

### **8. What employment options do I have as an F-1 student?**

Depending upon the F-1 student's exact situation, there are four employment options for F-1 students: on-campus employment, off-campus employment, Curricular Practical Training (CPT) and Optional Practical Training (OPT).

**On-Campus Employment** is incident to F-1 status, and requires no USCIS approval. The student may work up to 20 hours per week during school, and can work full-time during breaks and holidays. F-1 students can work as soon as they arrive on campus, but the work must provide services to the campus community.

**Off-Campus Employment** requires that the F-1 student have been in F-1 status for at least nine months, and that the student can show unforeseen circumstances and hardship beyond his or her control, such as theft, loss of aid, or medical bills. The student must then obtain DSO certification on his or her I-20, and USCIS approval of Form I-765.

**Curricular Practical Training (CPT)** can be considered if it is part of the F-1 student's curriculum and if the student has been in F-1 status for at least nine months. CPT requires DSO endorsement on the Form I-20, but does not require USCIS approval. CPT is unlimited in duration, but if an F-1 student participates in CPT for more than twelve months, then he or she will not be eligible for Optional Practical Training (OPT).

**Optional Practical Training (OPT)** is available to F-1 students having been in F-1 status for nine months or longer, as long as the student did not participate in more than twelve months of CPT. Students may participate in OPT after the completion of each level of education, i.e. Bachelors, Masters and Ph.D, and the OPT must be related to the student's major field of study. No offer of employment is required; however, the student must obtain DSO endorsement on Form I-20 and USCIS approval of Form I-765. It is recommended that students wishing to participate in OPT file Form I-765 with the USCIS three months prior to the completion of their studies so that the USCIS will have time to adjudicate the Form. All OPT must be completed within fourteen months of finishing school.

### **9. If I fall out of status, what can I do to get my F-1 status reinstated?**

If a student in F-1 status falls below a full course load (12 credit hours) without the approval of the DSO, the student will need to get his or her F-1 status reinstated. The student should request reinstatement within five months of the violation of status, and show that he or she intends to pursue or is pursuing full-time studies. In addition, the student must show that the violation was out of his or her control, that he or she has not previously fallen below a full course load, and that he or she has not performed unauthorized work. The student must file Form I-539 and Form I-20 with the USCIS district office having jurisdiction over the school's location. If the reinstatement is denied, the student is considered out-of-status and will begin accruing unlawful presence.

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# **Family-Based Immigration: How Changes in Family Relationships Affect Priority Dates**

For the past several weeks, employment-based immigration news has dominated the immigration world. In this article, we will focus on family-based immigration and how changes to a family relationship can affect the family immigration case.

## **Background**

On our website ([www.longchangonline.com](http://www.longchangonline.com)), we describe in detail the different family relationships that can be used as the basis for filing an immigrant visa petition on behalf of a close family relative. The most common family relationship is the husband-wife relationship. A U.S. citizen filing for his or her spouse, parent, or unmarried child under the age of 21 are relatively fast processes for obtaining permanent resident through a family relationship since there is no visa backlog or limit on the number of visas which can be given out in any year by immigration officials. Other close family relationships, however, involve significant delays since they fall under a particular "Preference Category". If the family relationship falls under a "Preference Category", this means the U.S. immigration system limits the number of visas depending on the category and there usually is a significant backlog or delay in obtaining the green card.

## **Preference Categories**

If an individual is a relative of a United States Citizen or Lawful Permanent Resident, but is not an immediate relative (as explained above), he or she may still be eligible for a family-based immigrant visa. These individuals are classified under a particular Preference Category depending on their family relationship to the U.S. Citizen or Lawful Permanent Resident who files the Form I-130 Petition on their behalf.

As noted above, a **United States Citizen** can file an immigrant petition on behalf of a spouse, parent or unmarried child under the age of 21 for classification as an immediate relative. In addition, a United States Citizen can file an immigrant petition on behalf of the following individuals:

**1st Preference:** Unmarried sons or daughters over the age of 21;

**3rd Preference:** Married sons or daughters over the age of 21; and

**4th Preference:** Brothers and sisters.

A **Lawful Permanent Resident of the United States** can file an immigrant petition on behalf of the following individuals:

**2A Preference:** Spouses and Unmarried sons or daughters under the age of 21; and

**2B Preference:** Unmarried sons or daughters over the age of 21.

## **Changes in the Petitioner's Family Situation**

In the number of years that it typically takes for a family case to be processed, family relationships change for a number of reasons (death, marriage, divorce, naturalization, turning 21 years of age, etc). Following is a brief explanation of how changes in a family relationship can affect the family-based immigration case:

**Death of the Petitioner:** The Petitioner is the person who files the I-130 Petition on behalf of a family member. Generally speaking, if the Petitioner dies, the I-130 Petition itself dies. There are also very limited exceptions for humanitarian reasons. In addition, a widow of a U.S. citizen can file her own self-petition within 2 years of her U.S. citizen spouse's death so long as the couple was married for at least 2 years and was living together at the time of the U.S. citizen spouse's death, and the widow has not remarried.

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**HELPFUL TIP:** In situations where both parents can file for a son or daughter, it is often recommended to have each parent file a separate I-130 Petition for the son or daughter. Then, if one of the parents dies, the other parent's I-130 Petition remains valid. This is especially important in cases where the parents are elderly or in poor health. The same rationale applies in cases where a Beneficiary has multiple brothers or sisters who are U.S. citizens. Each U.S. citizen brother or sister could, theoretically, file an I-130 Petition for his sibling. Since these types of cases usually take over 10 years to process, it is a good idea to consider having multiple I-130 Petitions filed for a Beneficiary in the event that one of the Petitioner is either unable to continue the case (e.g., due to death) or refuses to continue to sponsor his sibling (e.g., where there is a family conflict).

**Naturalization of the Petitioner Where the Beneficiary is under 21:** Many cases start out where the Petitioner is a lawful permanent resident (green card holder) filing for a son or daughter (e.g., Family Preference 2A or 2B). After filing the I-130 Petition, the Petitioner may become a naturalized U.S. citizen. At such time, the Preference Category automatically changes. A Family Preference 2A case automatically becomes an immediate relative case and the Beneficiary is eligible to file for the green card.

**HELPFUL TIP:** The Petitioner's naturalization needs to be communicated by the Petitioner to the immigration office. Our office often times will send a letter to the appropriate immigration office notifying it that the Petitioner has naturalized. By doing so, the USCIS will then pull the I-130 Petition and make a decision on it.

**Naturalization of the Petitioner Where the Beneficiary is over 21:** An I-130 Petition filed by a lawful permanent resident on behalf of an unmarried child over the age of 21 is classified under Family Preference 2B. If the Petitioner becomes a United States citizen, then the case automatically converts to Family 1<sup>st</sup> Preference. This conversion usually shortens the wait for a green card by several years.

In addition, once the Petitioner becomes a United States citizen, the I-130 Petition will not be terminated if the Beneficiary gets married. It is very important to understand the timing in such a case. The Petitioner must become a United States citizen before the Beneficiary gets married. If the Beneficiary gets married before the Petitioner becomes a United States citizen, the I-130 Petition will be terminated.

## **Changes in the Beneficiary's Family Situation**

The two most common changes to a Beneficiary's family situation are the following:

**Marriage of the Beneficiary:** A beneficiary's marriage results in a Family 1<sup>st</sup> Preference case being automatically converted from 1<sup>st</sup> Preference to 3<sup>rd</sup> Preference. This usually will add several years to the wait for a green card. The beneficiary's spouse will be considered a "derivative beneficiary" (meaning the spouse generally will be able to file for the green card at the same time as the primary Beneficiary).

A beneficiary's marriage results in any 2<sup>nd</sup> Preference Category (Family 2A or 2B) case being terminated. The beneficiary must remain unmarried while the case is under the 2<sup>nd</sup> Preference Category in order for the Petition to remain in effect.

The beneficiary's marriage in a 4<sup>th</sup> Preference case has no effect, meaning the case will remain classified as a 4<sup>th</sup> Preference case. As a general rule, the spouse of a 4<sup>th</sup> preference beneficiary will be considered a "derivative beneficiary" (meaning the spouse generally will be able to file for the green card at the same time as the primary Beneficiary).

**Divorce of the Beneficiary:** The divorce of a 3<sup>rd</sup> Preference beneficiary will automatically convert a 3<sup>rd</sup> Preference case to a 1<sup>st</sup> Preference case. This automatic conversion will shorten the wait for the green card by several years. In such a case, proof of the divorce must be submitted to the appropriate immigration officials so that the case can be re-classified as a 1<sup>st</sup> Preference case.

*(Continued on next page)*



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## **Long, Chang & Associates, L.L.P.**

**Phone: (336) 855-5700**

Fax: (336) 855-7111

Email:

[info@longchangonline.com](mailto:info@longchangonline.com)

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[www.longchangonline.com](http://www.longchangonline.com)

4915 Piedmont Parkway  
Suite 103  
Jamestown, NC 27282

## **Conclusion**

The filing of the I-130 Petition is the first step in sponsoring a family member for permanent residency. As time goes on, family circumstances often change. These changes in family relationships can have a significant impact on the I-130 petition and can either shorten or lengthen the waiting time associated with a family-based immigration case. It is important for individuals, both petitioners and beneficiaries, to understand how changes in family relationships can affect their case.

For additional information on family-based immigration, please visit our website at [www.longchangonline.com](http://www.longchangonline.com), or contact our office at (336) 855-5700.

\* \* \* \* \*

## **Immigration Update – October 2005**

### **Proposed Immigration Legislation**

Over the past couple of weeks, several key Senate Republicans have announced their support for comprehensive immigration reform, including Senate majority Leader Bill Frist. The key word is "comprehensive", meaning that any immigration legislation that passes will include not just benefits provisions but also many provisions focusing on border security and interior, workplace enforcement.

As the immigration debate has heated up in Congress, it has become clear that Democrats in Congress are strongly in favor of various legalization programs and guest worker programs which would provide some sort of legal status to out-of-status or illegal aliens. Republicans in Congress have been focusing more on the enforcement side of immigration. Many of the Republicans are focusing on securing the U.S. borders with more border patrol agents or U.S. military forces and providing increased penalties for the hiring of illegal workers. A comprehensive immigration plan (which is gaining more support) would include both types of provisions.

In the December issue of our monthly immigration newsletter (available online at [www.longchangonline.com](http://www.longchangonline.com)), we will analyze the various immigration proposals under consideration in Congress.

### **Immigration Filing Fees Increase**

Beginning on October 26, 2005, most immigration application fees are increasing. The fee increase is fairly small, with most fees increasing between \$5 and \$15 per application. Applications mailed on or after October 26, 2005 with an incorrect fee will be returned by USCIS. It is important to note that current versions of immigration forms still have the old filing fee listed. So be sure to check with your immigration to make sure you are mailing in the correct application fee. This is especially important with cases that are being filed close a deadline where the return of the application due to an incorrect filing fee could result in an untimely filing of the application. The new fees can be found on our website at [www.longchangonline.com](http://www.longchangonline.com)

### **USCIS Announces Information on H-1B Program**

The Department of Homeland Security made 2 separate announcements on the H-1B program. First, it announced that USCIS actually went over the H-1B cap by issuing approximately 72,000 H-1Bs during this past fiscal year (October 1, 2004 to September 30, 2005). The H-1B cap was set at 65,000 for that year, meaning that USCIS actually approved more than 7,000 H-1Bs over the 65,000 cap.

USCIS also announced that it was not going to recapture unused H-1B numbers from the separate H-1B number authorized for nationals of Chile and Singapore. As a result, unless new legislation is enacted, no new H-1B cases subject to the H-1B cap



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can be approved at this time. The earliest an H-1B cap case can be filed is April 1, 2006 for an employment start date of October 1, 2006. As we have explained in past articles posted on [www.longchangonline.com](http://www.longchangonline.com), there are many exemptions to the H-1B cap. It is important for individuals wishing to obtain an H-1B visa to determine if they are subject to the H-1B cap. If they are not subject to the cap, then they may be able to file at this time for H-1B status. One major exemption from the H-1B cap is for individuals who have graduated from a U.S. college or university with an advanced degree (Master's degree or higher).

\* \* \* \* \*

**About Us**

*Long, Chang & Associates, L.L.P. is a full-service immigration law firm concentrating in the areas of employment-based and family-based immigration law. Our law firm has successfully represented individuals and employers through the immigration process with the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS), United States Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) and at U.S. consulates and embassies in order to obtain both non-immigrant (temporary) visas and immigrant (permanent) visas on behalf of individuals or employees.*

\* \* \* \* \*



**Kristen Aekyung Chang** is a founding partner of Long, Chang & Associates, L.L.P. She practices exclusively in immigration law and is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) and the North Carolina State Bar.

*Born in Seoul, South Korea, Ms. Chang attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology. While achieving academic success at the undergraduate level, Ms. Chang devoted much of her time to volunteerism. She served as the Chairperson on the Planning Committee for the University's Bicentennial Class celebration and served as a Research Assistant in the University's Psychology Department where she performed valuable research in the area of cognitive memory. Ms. Chang also volunteered in the school's International Department as an English language assistant for international students and faculty members and at a local psychiatric hospital. In addition to her numerous public-service efforts during her undergraduate career at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Ms. Chang studied abroad at the prestigious London School of Economics where she achieved the top academic ranking in International Business Strategy and Human Resource Management.*

*Ms. Chang received her J.D. (law) degree from the Wake Forest University School of Law. During law school, Ms. Chang was selected as a member of the Law School's Moot Court Board based on her performance in the school's trial court competition. She was one of three members on the school's nationally-recognized and award-winning National Moot Court Evidence Team. During law school, Ms. Chang studied Labor and Employment Law at the law school's summer program in Italy.*

*Following law school, Ms. Chang opened her own immigration law practice in Greensboro, North Carolina, and subsequently joined Mr. Long in founding Long, Chang & Associates. As a naturalized citizen of the United States, Ms. Chang understands the immigration practice not just as an immigration lawyer but as an immigrant herself who has gone through the immigration process. Based on her personal experiences, Ms. Chang has a remarkable way of relating with her clients and perceiving their anxieties and concerns.*

\* \* \* \* \*



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4915 Piedmont Parkway  
Suite 103  
Jamestown, NC 27282



**David J. Long** founded Long, Chang & Associates, L.L.P. in 1998. He has been recognized by the North Carolina State Bar as a Board-Certified Specialist in Immigration Law. Mr. Long is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) and the North Carolina State Bar. Mr. Long serves as a Mentor for other immigration attorneys through AILA.

*Prior to founding Long, Chang & Associates, L.L.P., Mr. Long worked as an attorney with the law firm of Kilpatrick Stockton in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Mr. Long practices in the areas of immigration law, corporate law and real estate.*

*Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Mr. Long attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he studied in the Honors Program and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science. In addition, Mr. Long studied the Korean Language at Duke University for a semester while attending UNC-CH. Mr. Long graduated magna cum laude and in the top 1% of his class.*

*Mr. Long graduated with highest honors and received his J.D. (law) degree from the Wake Forest University School of Law. During law school, Mr. Long was selected as a member of the Law Review based on his academic standing. He was one of three members on the school's nationally-recognized Gabrielli Family Law Moot Court Team. Mr. Long also studied Labor and Employment Law at the law school's summer program in Italy.*

*Following law school, Mr. Long worked as an attorney in the commercial real estate department of Kilpatrick Stockton LLP in Winston-Salem, NC, one of largest law firms in the United States. After two years of working at a large law firm, Mr. Long desired the opportunity to assist clients on a more personal basis. As a result, he joined Ms. Chang in forming Long, Chang & Associates, L.L.P. Most recently, Mr. Long served as an adjunct faculty member at Handong International Law School in Pohang, South Korea where he taught U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Law.*

\* \* \* \* \*

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** *This Newsletter is for informational purposes only, as a service for our clients and friends. The contents of this Newsletter and our website are not intended as legal advice for any purpose, and you should not consider them as advice or as legal opinion on any matters. This Newsletter does not create, and is not intended to create, any attorney/client relationship between you and Long, Chang & Associates, L.L.P.*

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