



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

Immigration Attorneys

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IMMIGRATION ALERT

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Attorneys
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The Chances for Comprehensive Immigration Reform

What are the chances of comprehensive immigration reform being passed? Nobody can say for sure, except that it is a topic that continues to be discussed in Washington, D.C.

At the beginning of his term, President Obama indicated that he wanted to have comprehensive immigration reform done this year. In recent months, he has continued to express his support for comprehensive immigration reform, but has backed off announcing a particular timeframe for it.

Various members of Congress, however, have continued to indicate that they will introduce various proposals for comprehensive immigration reform. Most notably, Senator Chuck Schumer (D-New York) previously indicated that he would draft a comprehensive immigration reform proposal by Labor Day, which has since passed. The rumor is that Senator Schumer still plans on drafting a proposal which will hopefully be introduced in Congress later this year or early next year.

More recently, Rep. Luis Gutierrez (D-Illinois) indicated in mid-September that he would introduce his own immigration reform proposal by mid-October. Rep. Gutierrez has been a long proponent of compassionate immigration reform and an advocate for immigrants.

It remains to be seen if any plan introduced in Congress by either Senator Schumer or Rep. Gutierrez will be voted on in year's Congress or if it will have to wait until next year. With the health care debate still being debated in Congress, it is looking more likely that any reform plan will have to wait until next year. We, at Long, Chang & Associates, LLP, will continue to monitor the situation.



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OCTOBER 2009 VISA BULLETIN

The Department of State recently published the October 2009 Visa Bulletin which summarizes the availability of immigrant visas in the employment-based and family-based immigration categories for the month of October 2009. Click [here](#) to view the October 2009 Visa Bulletin, or visit http://www.travel.state.gov/visa/frvi/bulletin/bulletin_4575.html.

The October 2009 Visa Bulletin has been highly anticipated in the immigrant community since October 2009 marks the beginning of a new immigration fiscal year and, as a result, a fresh allotment of immigrant visas which are made available each immigration fiscal year. As a result, those categories which ran out of immigrant visas towards the end of the last immigration fiscal year are now filled with a new allotment of immigrant visas.

Once all of the immigrant visas authorized by law to be issued during the immigration fiscal year in a particular immigrant visa category are issued, the particular immigrant visa category becomes unavailable. This typically happens in many immigrant visa categories in the later months of the immigration fiscal year. At the beginning of the immigration fiscal year (October 1), immigrant visas are once again made available in all employment-based and family-based immigrant visa categories.

Highlights of the October 2009 Visa Bulletin are as follows:

- The cutoff dates in all family-based immigrant visa categories moved forward slightly from the cutoff dates in the September 2009 Visa Bulletin (with the only exception being in the 2B Family category for the Philippines);
- Cutoff dates have once again been established in the Employment-Based 3rd Preference Category (both skilled and unskilled). This means that immigrant visas are available for applicants with priority dates earlier than the listed cutoff dates. The good news is that there are once again immigrant visas for these categories since the EB-3 category has been completely unavailable (meaning no immigrant visas or green cards could be issued or approved in the entire EB-3 category) since April 1, 2009. The bad news is that the cutoff dates are in year 2002 or 2001 (depending on particular EB-3 category -- skilled or unskilled -- and the applicant's country of birth).

When the October 2009 Visa Bulletin was originally published, the EB-4 category which covers Religious Workers noted that immigrant visas were available only for Ministers. The Visa Bulletin indicated that immigrant visas were unavailable for "non-ministers" (identified in the Visa Bulletin as "Certain Religious Workers") since the non-minister special immigrant visa program expired on September 30, 2009. However, earlier this week, a temporary extension of the non-minister special immigrant visa program was signed into law extending the program to October 31, 2009. It is hoped that during the month of October a long-term extension of the program will take place, but that has not yet been finalized at this time. As a result of the extension to October 31, 2009, immigrant visas are once again available to all religious workers (ministers and non-ministers) for the month of October 2009.

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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.



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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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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.



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