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Developments at our Firm . . .

Our name has changed to Deutsch, Killea and Eapen. Please note our new e-mail and web addresses.

Our 4 immigration attorneys and highly educated support staff are each dedicated to providing clients with quality, efficient immigration services. There are few situations beyond the knowledge base of our 50+ combined years of experience in immigration law, which is why our firm has received the highest rating from Martindale Hubbell based on reviews by other attorneys!

The U.S. government agencies dealing with immigration, CIS (formerly INS), the State Department and the Labor Department, constantly change their immigration procedures. Our office updates its information daily, to ensure proper procedures are used. In this way we obtain the best and quickest results for our clients.

Tough Cases are Our Forte . . .

We successfully obtain permission for many individuals to visit, work in, or to permanently live in the U.S. Our clients include individuals and businesses, laborers, professionals, scientists, investors, artists, educational institutions, non-profit organizations and many others. The general public hears little about such day-to-day immigration cases, most routinely approved such as these:

- Americans sponsor their spouses, parents, siblings and children for permanent residence; these cases take anywhere from a few months to 10 years or more to complete, depending on the family relationship and country involved.

- American companies bring temporary workers to the U.S., and may sponsor them for U.S. permanent residence, a process which takes between 6 months and 8 years, depending on the employment position and nationality. Any employee can be sponsored for permanent residence, from an unskilled laborer to the top executive. Multinational managers and executives are a favored immigration category, and can usually be brought to the U.S. temporarily or permanently and without delay. "Top" scientists, business people, artists and athletes qualify for expedited permanent residence.

Some immigration cases do not "fit in a box," requiring imaginative legal work. Many clients attest to our firm's success in overcoming their difficult situations:

- A high official in the Washington, DC embassy of a West African country, who had refused to carry out repressive orders of his President, was suddenly recalled to the country. Based on earlier events, he feared he would be unjustly punished. We worked closely with high officials of CIS's Asylum Office and obtained asylum for his entire family.

- We were retained by a private contractor who was developing a helicopter, specially modified to patrol over Washington, DC for the U.S. Coast Guard. CIS had denied an urgently needed work authorization for an Aeronautical Engineer, and the program could not move forward. By working closely with CIS's Office of Chief Counsel and Coast Guard officials overseeing aircraft development, we were able to quickly obtain an "extraordinary ability scientist" work authorization for the engineer.

- We have successfully obtained hardship waivers for J-1 visa holders, legal immigrants and undocumented persons. As a result, these clients did not have to endure long separations from their families.

- We have sued CIS numerous times over unreasonable delays in approving permanent residence or naturalization applications. CIS has uniformly done what we requested in short order.

The Government Cracks Down on Employers....

Ever since enactment of the 1986 employer sanction laws, employers have needed to incorporate certain practices into their employee hiring and record-keeping: to avoid financial and potentially criminal sanctions, all companies, even those with no foreign employees, are required to prepare an I-9 Form for each employee. During the past year, the immigration service has increasingly pursued its "get tough" policy against employers, conducting numerous raids on food producers, construction firms and other known employers of undocumented persons. We provide audit services to employers, so they are confident in protecting themselves from penalties under these complicated provisions.

Diversity Lottery . . .

Registration for the DV-2010 Lottery has begun. Entries must be submitted electronically between October 2 and December 1, 2008. The Lottery is open to persons from many different African, Asian, European, Oceanic, South and Central American countries. We provide application procedures in our web site news section, at www.immigrationdc.com. Let us know if you need assistance applying.

The Immigration Debate . . .

The current economic crisis may have drowned out the immigration debate. But the debate will persist, both presidential candidates having expressed support for immigration reform.

The public arguments focus on border protection and the millions of undocumented foreigners living in our country. But those in the know are concerned about our broken, legal immigration system which creates problems for law-abiding foreigners.

Immigration laws permit U.S. employers to sponsor foreign workers for temporary visas or permanent residence, and American citizens and permanent residents to sponsor close family members to live with them in the U.S. Yet, it often takes 6 or more years, and in a few categories more than 10 years, to obtain permanent residence for a qualifying employee or family member. These immigrants perform many kinds of work essential to the economic success of the United States, such as scientific research, teaching, construction, agricultural work, meat and food processing, hotel and restaurant service, and gardening. It is not unusual for immigrant spouses or their children abroad to be separated for many years.

Our government has taken some steps to speed up these immigration processes, but the primary culprit is the backlog Congress created by failing to authorize enough visas to meet the business and family needs of the United States. If we are going to have this immigration process, then Congress should not make people and companies spend a huge portion of their lives waiting to complete it.

Partly because of anti-immigration propaganda by groups such as the Federation for American Immigration Reform and the Center for Immigration Studies, the discussions about immigration policy have become contentious and politicized. As a result, it is hard for lawmakers to agree on common-sense solutions that are realistic for the needs of our country. Because of the government's focus on sealing off the Mexican border, it has not taken any action to resolve the status of millions of undocumented foreigners in our midst. Let's hope the new administration will be able to resolve these important national security issues.

For more information on these and other topics, call or visit our website, www.immigrationdc.com.



Wishing you a great year.
Morris, Carolyn, Rajan, Rebecca, Yana, and Daniela