



Dear Reader:

Immigration policy continues to shift quickly, and last week brought especially significant changes. The recent Presidential Proclamation introduced a \$100,000 filing fee for new H-1B petitions — a change that is already reshaping employer hiring strategies and impacting foreign professionals considering the U.S. for work. In addition, USCIS and the Department of Labor have begun issuing clarifications and enforcement initiatives, signaling that further adjustments to the H-1B program are likely in the months ahead.

For many of our clients, these developments raise urgent questions about compliance, workforce planning, and the availability of visa pathways for specialized talent. Healthcare employers remain focused on addressing the nursing shortage, while technology companies are balancing higher costs against the need for critical skills. In both industries, careful legal guidance and strategic planning are essential.

At NPZ Law Group, we remain committed to helping employers and individuals navigate these changes with clarity and confidence. Our attorneys are monitoring every update and continue to publish practical resources — including FAQs, fact sheets, and analysis of agency initiatives — so our clients and community have the information they need at their fingertips.

We encourage you to stay informed as immigration policies evolve. If you have any questions about how these changes may affect your status, workforce, or travel plans, please contact NPZ Law Group at info@visaserve.com or call 201-670-0006

(ext. 104). Our experienced U.S. and Canadian immigration attorneys are ready to provide strategic and compassionate assistance.

Know Your Rights: What to Do If ICE Comes to Your Home, Workplace, or Stops You in Public (English & Spanish Versions). <u>Please click here</u> to download and feel free to share it with your friends and family.

Here are this month's top stories to keep you informed:

USCIS ISSUES GUIDANCE ON PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION AND \$100,000 H-1B FEE.

On September 21, 2025, USCIS issued a policy memorandum clarifying the scope of the recent Presidential Proclamation requiring a \$100,000 payment for certain H-1B petitions.

To read more, please click here . . .

H-1B PROCLAMATION FAQ: USCIS CLARIFIES \$100,000 FEE.

On September 19, 2025, President Trump signed a Presidential Proclamation requiring a \$100,000 payment for certain H-1B petitions. On September 21, 2025, USCIS issued official guidance and an FAQ confirming how this new policy will be applied.

To read more, please click here . . .

UPDATE: CLARIFICATIONS ON PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION REQUIRING \$100,000 H-1B FEE.

On September 19, 2025, President Trump issued a Presidential Proclamation introducing a new \$100,000 fee for certain H-1B petitions. NPZ Law Group previously shared the details of this Proclamation and its potential impact on employers and workers.

To read more, please click here . . .

PROJECT FIREWALL: DOL'S NEW H-1B ENFORCEMENT INITIATIVE.

On September 19, 2025, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) announced Project Firewall, a new enforcement initiative aimed at protecting America's highly skilled workforce and strengthening oversight of the H-1B visa program.

To read more, please click here . . .

DOL PROPOSES NEW H-1B WAGE RULES FOLLOWING PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION.

On September 22, 2025, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) in the Federal Register (Document No. 2025-18473) that would raise prevailing wage levels for H-1B visa holders.

To read more, please click here . . .

PRESIDENT TRUMP ESTABLISHES THE GOLD CARD VISA PROGRAM.

On September 19, 2025, President Donald J. Trump signed an Executive Order creating the Gold Card visa program. This new initiative marks a significant shift in U.S. immigration policy by prioritizing foreign nationals who make substantial financial contributions to the United States.

To read more, please click here . . .

HOW A GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN COULD AFFECT U.S. IMMIGRATION SERVICES.

With the possibility of a federal government shutdown, many immigrants, employers, and families are left wondering how immigration processes may be disrupted. While some immigration agencies operate on fee-based funding and continue functioning, others may scale back or suspend services until Congress passes a new appropriations bill.

To read more, please click here . . .

U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT NARROWS ELIGIBILITY FOR NONIMMIGRANT VISA INTERVIEW WAIVERS.

The U.S. Department of State has announced changes to the interview waiver program for nonimmigrant visas, effective October 1, 2025. These updates significantly reduce the categories of applicants who can obtain a visa without appearing in person before a consular officer.

To read more, please click here . . .

DOS VISA BULLETIN UPDATE: VISA BULLETIN FOR SEPTEMBER 2025 - IF YOUR "PRIORITY DATE" IS CURRENT, PLEASE LET US KNOW?

The September 2025 Visa Bulletin arrives with minimal movement as the fiscal year comes to an end. Most Employment-Based and Family-Based categories remain unchanged from August, signaling that annual visa limits are near or already reached. Demand remains high, and some categories are already unavailable. Here's what you need to know. **Read more...**

To view the current cutoff dates for each visa preference category and country

of chargeability, please click here to access two charts provided by the U.S. Department of State's monthly visa bulletin.

CANADIAN IMMIGRATION LAW NEWS.

LOOKING BEYOND THE H-1B? DISCOVER CANADA'S SMARTER IMMIGRATION PATHWAYS.

With new hurdles and rising costs in the U.S. H-1B program, many skilled workers are searching for better opportunities. Canada is stepping up as a welcoming alternative with clear, merit-based immigration programs.

To read more, please click here . . .

ENTERING CANADA BY LAND: QUESTIONS YOU CAN EXPECT AT THE BORDER.

Crossing into Canada by car may seem simple, but Canadian border officials can ask detailed questions to determine your admissibility. Being prepared helps travelers avoid delays or denials.

To read more, please click here . . .

CANADA SPOUSAL SPONSORSHIP APPLICATION MISTAKES AND HOW TO FIX THEM WITH IRCC.

Filing a spousal sponsorship application to reunite with your spouse or commonlaw partner in Canada is one of the most meaningful immigration steps a person can take. However, mistakes in the application are more common than many realize.

To read more, please click here . . .

NPZ's Immigration Insights: New YouTube Series on U.S. & Canadian Law

H-1B \$100,000 FEE: USCIS CLARIFICATIONS AND WHAT EMPLOYERS NEED TO KNOW.



THE NEW GOLD CARD VISA: U.S. IMMIGRATION PATHWAY FOR HIGH-VALUE CONTRIBUTORS.



US CITIZENSHIP GOOD MORAL CHARACTER REQUIREMENT NEW USCIS POLICY EXPLAINED.

UPCOMING EVENT

GOPIO international Webinar on H-1B Visa challenges

October 4th, 2025 Time: 11:00am Venue: Webinar

Register at https://tinyurl.com/H1BVisaStormWebinar

Stay updated on the latest immigration news by joining our monthly newsletter mailing list. Sign up click here

Stay Informed on US & Canada Immigration - Expert Insights from NPZ Law Group Podcast Library

NPZ Law Group - Immigration & Nationality Law

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