

U.S. and Canadian Immigration and Nationality Law (Bimonthly) Newsletter and Updates.

Dear Reader:

We want to provide our readers with another reminder that the H-1B Lottery will be open from Noon on March 4th 2026 to Noon on March 19th 2026. NPZ Lawyers are here to assist you and your organization's with H-1B filings and/or to tell you about this year's lottery nuances. But there is more ...

Workplace immigration enforcement remains an active and evolving area for U.S. employers, and activity can arise with little warning—through an I-9 audit notice, a request for payroll or hiring records, or an unannounced site visit. Employers are often surprised to learn that multiple agencies may be involved, each with different roles and procedures, which can create confusion in the moment and lead to avoidable missteps. Even when a matter begins as a routine inquiry, it can quickly become disruptive if there is no clear internal protocol.

The most effective way to reduce risk is to prepare before an issue arises. Employers should maintain organized I-9 files, train HR and front-desk staff on how to respond professionally, and designate a single point of contact to interact with government officers. A written response plan should include guidance on verifying credentials, requesting and reviewing any warrant or paperwork before granting access to nonpublic areas, documenting key details of any interaction, and contacting legal counsel promptly. Proactive compliance—combined with a calm, structured response—helps limit disruption, protect employee privacy, and reduce exposure to penalties and reputational harm.

We encourage you to stay informed as immigration and travel-related 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 assist you.

Upcoming Webinar: 2027 H-1B Cap Season Webinar: Key Updates and Employer Strategies

As employers prepare for the 2027 H-1B cap season, this webinar will cover important updates, timelines, and employer planning strategies. NPZ Law Group attorneys will discuss registration preparation, filing approaches, compliance risks, and practical HR steps to support workforce planning.

Date & Time: February 18, 2026 and 12:00 PM

[Register – Click Here . . .](#)

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

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

FY 2027 H-1B CAP LOTTERY REGISTRATION: KEY DATES AND NEXT STEPS.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has announced that the FY 2027 H-1B cap initial registration period will open at 12:00 PM Eastern on March 4, 2026, and will remain open through 12:00 PM Eastern on March 19, 2026.

[To read more, please click here . . .](#)

WHAT A RECENT FEDERAL COURT DECISION MEANS FOR EB-1A GREEN CARD APPLICANTS.

A recent federal court decision has generated discussion among individuals considering or pursuing the EB-1A Extraordinary Ability green card. As summaries of the decision circulate online, some applicants are left wondering whether EB-1A approvals have suddenly become easier or automatic.

[To read more, please click here . . .](#)

I-9 AUDITS AND WORKPLACE VISITS IN 2026: WHAT EMPLOYERS SHOULD DO BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER.

Immigration enforcement in the workplace continues to be a major concern for U.S. employers in 2026. Increased site visits, I-9 audits, and enforcement actions have left many businesses unsure how to respond if Immigration and Customs

Enforcement (ICE) appears at their facility.

[To read more, please click here . . .](#)

WHY I-130 PETITIONS ARE TAKING SO LONG IN 2026: WHAT FAMILIES SHOULD UNDERSTAND.

Many families are asking the same question in 2026: “Why has my I-130 family petition been pending for so long?”

Some cases have been waiting for over a year, while others appear stuck with little visible progress. Although these delays are frustrating, they are usually the result of multiple factors working together—not a single problem with the case.

[To read more, please click here . . .](#)

WHY SOME FAMILIES GET GREEN CARDS FASTER IN 2026: LAWFUL IMMIGRATION STRATEGIES EXPLAINED.

Many families notice something that feels unfair: some applicants wait decades for a green card, while others seem to move forward much faster.

In most cases, this difference is not about shortcuts or bending the rules. It comes down to how U.S. immigration law is structured and whether an applicant qualifies for a faster lawful pathway.

[To read more, please click here . . .](#)

RESIDENCY MATCH 2026: IMMIGRATION ISSUES MEDICAL EMPLOYERS AND INTERNATIONAL PHYSICIANS SHOULD PLAN FOR NOW.

As the 2026 residency match cycle approaches, hospitals, medical schools, and international medical graduates are facing an immigration environment that is more complex and less predictable than in prior years.

[To read more, please click here . . .](#)

ICE HOME ENTRIES AND ADMINISTRATIVE WARRANTS: WHAT IMMIGRANTS AND FAMILIES SHOULD UNDERSTAND.

Recent reports have raised serious questions about the authority Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers may be asserting when conducting home enforcement actions. In particular, concerns have emerged about ICE relying on administrative warrants, rather than warrants signed by a judge, when attempting to enter private residences.

[To read more, please click here . . .](#)

THE “GOLD CARD” GREEN CARD PROGRAM: WHAT WE KNOW, WHAT’S UNCLEAR, AND WHAT APPLICANTS SHOULD CONSIDER.

A new immigration concept commonly referred to as the “Gold Card” has drawn significant attention from investors, entrepreneurs, and global executives.

[To read more, please click here . . .](#)

DOS VISA BULLETIN UPDATE: VISA BULLETIN FOR FEBRUARY 2026 - IF YOUR "PRIORITY DATE" IS CURRENT, PLEASE LET US KNOW?

The February 2026 Visa Bulletin reflects a more cautious pace following January’s movement. Most Employment-Based and Family-Based categories remain unchanged, while the EB-4 Certain Religious Worker (SR) category is now officially unavailable due to statutory expiration. Here’s what applicants need to know this month. [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.

CANADIAN PERMANENT RESIDENTS CHARGED WITH A CRIME IN THE U.S.: WHAT IT COULD MEAN FOR ENTRY, PR STATUS, AND CITIZENSHIP.

Canadian permanent residents who live, work, or travel frequently in the United States often assume that a criminal charge south of the border will remain a “U.S. issue.” In reality, criminal matters in the United States can raise serious immigration concerns in Canada as well.

[To read more, please click here . . .](#)

POST-GRADUATION WORK PERMIT (PGWP): ELIGIBILITY, ONE-TIME RULE, AND EXTENSION LIMITS.

Canada’s Post-Graduation Work Permit (PGWP) is a key pathway for international students who want to gain Canadian work experience after completing their studies. However, strict rules around eligibility, extensions, and the one-time issuance limit often cause confusion.

[To read more, please click here . . .](#)

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

FY 2027 H-1B REGISTRATION OPENS MARCH 4 (LOTTERY DATES + KEY UPDATES).

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**FY 2027 H-1B Registration
Opens March 4 (Lottery Dates +
Key Updates)**



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RELIGIOUS WORKER VISAS UPDATE: R-1 EXTENSIONS, EB-4 BACKLOG, AND WHAT CHANGES NOW.


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**RELIGIOUS WORKER VISAS
UPDATE: R-1 EXTENSIONS, EB-4
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UPCOMING EVENT

NJICLE Webinar: H-1B Visa Update: Navigating the Effect on Employers

February 20, 2026

Time: 9:00am-11:00am

Venue: Online via Zoom

[Register now — click here](#)

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