



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

Dear Reader,

The \$100,000 H-1B fee saga continues to work through the courts. On July 27, the First Circuit Court of Appeals declined to stay a lower court's decision vacating the administration's proposed \$100,000 H-1B application fee, meaning the fee remains blocked while the underlying appeal proceeds. A final ruling isn't expected until sometime in 2027, and the administration is widely expected to petition the Supreme Court if it loses on the merits. Employers should continue to treat the fee as inapplicable for now, while staying alert to further developments.

USCIS has also confirmed it received enough petitions to reach the FY 2027 H-1B cap — both the 65,000 regular cap and the 20,000 U.S. advanced degree exemption — closing the door on additional cap-subject filings until next year's registration period. Separately, DHS has finalized a rule eliminating "duration of status" for F, J, and I nonimmigrants, replacing it with a fixed admission period tied to each person's program end date. Students, exchange visitors, and their employers should pay close attention to I-94 expiration dates going forward, since that date — not the visa stamp — will control authorized stay.

On the enforcement side, reports indicate DHS has begun assessing civil fines of \$998 per day against individuals who remain in the U.S. after a final removal order, regardless of whether they are pursuing further legal options. A federal court has also issued a partial administrative stay of certain USCIS policies tied to the Reconciliation Act (H.R. 1), affecting how EAD expiration is handled for TPS holders and how asylum application fees are assessed. Finally, the August 2026 Visa Bulletin brought strong movement for family-sponsored categories, while employment-based categories — especially EB-1 and EB-2 India — remain under

pressure, with DOS warning of possible unavailability before the fiscal year closes on September 30.

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.

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:

THE \$100,000 H-1B FEE IS BLOCKED AGAIN: WHAT THE FIRST CIRCUIT'S RULING ACTUALLY CHANGES.

The \$100,000 H-1B fee is off the table again, at least for now. On July 24, 2026, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit denied the government's request to keep the fee in effect while its appeal continues, finding that the administration had not shown it was likely to succeed on the merits.

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

A PENDING APPLICATION NO LONGER GUARANTEES SAFE TRAVEL: WHAT IMMIGRANTS SHOULD KNOW BEFORE FLYING DOMESTICALLY.

Reports have been building over the past several weeks of noncitizens being stopped and detained at U.S. airports while attempting to board domestic flights, including people who have a pending immigration case or benefit application on file.

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

NEW DHS RULE ALSO CHANGES HOW FAMILY MEMBERS' VISA EXTENSIONS ARE APPROVED.

When DHS finalized its rule replacing duration of status with fixed admission periods for F, J, and I nonimmigrants, most of the attention went to the individual timelines: the four-year cap, the shortened 30-day grace period for F-1 students, and the new requirement to file for an extension of stay directly with USCIS.

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

IT'S FINAL: DHS ENDS DURATION OF STATUS FOR F, J, AND I VISA HOLDERS.

DHS has published a final rule ending duration of status, D/S, for F academic students, J exchange visitors, and I representatives of foreign information media. This moves the change from proposal to reality.

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

LAID OFF ON H-1B? HERE'S HOW YOU MAY BE ABLE TO TRANSFER YOUR STATUS TO YOUR OWN STARTUP.

For years, an H-1B worker who lost a job and wanted to build something of their own faced a hard choice: find a new employer fast, or leave the country. Starting a company was treated as a distraction from the immigration emergency, not a real option.

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

TN VISA HOLDERS: WHY THE EB-2 NATIONAL INTEREST WAIVER DESERVES A LOOK RIGHT NOW.

The TN visa was built for temporary work, not permanent settlement. It's common for a Canadian or Mexican professional a few years into a TN job to start thinking about putting down roots in the U.S. for the long haul, and that is exactly where friction with the visa's design begins.

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

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

The August 2026 Visa Bulletin brings a quieter month for the employment-based categories hit hardest over the summer, but it introduces a meaningful shift on the family-sponsored side and a fresh warning for EB-1 India that filers should not overlook. **[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.

U.S. ENDS "DURATION OF STATUS" FOR F-1 STUDENTS — HOW DOES CANADA COMPARE?

Effective September 15, 2026, DHS is replacing the open-ended "duration of status" system for F-1, J-1, and I visa holders with a fixed admission period capped at four years — meaning students needing more time must file a formal Extension of Stay with USCIS, along with a \$470 fee, and the post-graduation grace period is shrinking from 60 to 30 days.

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

ONTARIO PUBLISHES FULL SCORING CRITERIA FOR THE NEW WORKFORCE PRIORITY STREAM.

On July 20, 2026, Ontario released the full points system and requirements for its new Workforce Priority Stream, which replaced all eight former OINP streams.

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

IRCC PAUSES NEW PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS PROGRAM APPLICATIONS: WHAT FAMILIES SHOULD DO NOW.

As of July 15, 2026, IRCC has stopped accepting new interest-to-sponsor forms under the Parents and Grandparents Program, though it does not affect anyone already in the queue — roughly 60,500 applicants remain in the system, and IRCC still plans to finalize permanent residence for up to 15,000 parents and grandparents in 2026.

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

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

DHS ENDS DURATION OF STATUS FOR F, J & I VISA HOLDERS — WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW.



David H. Nachman, Esq.
Managing Attorney

DHS Ends Duration of Status for F, J & I Holders — What You Need to Know



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DHS PROPOSES MAJOR N-400 FEE INCREASE — WHAT GREEN CARD HOLDERS NEED TO KNOW.



David H. Nachman, Esq.
Managing Attorney

DHS Proposes Major N-400 Fee Increase — What Green Card Holders Need to Know



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UPCOMING EVENTS

**GOPIO Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI) Manhattan Chapter
Hosting Indo American Chamber of Commerce (IACC) Mumbai Delegation**

July 31th, 2026

Time: 6:00 PM

Venue: Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan, 305 7th Avenue, 17th Floor, New York City. NY

[Register Now.](#)

**GSC SHRM 2026: Immigration
Enforcement: What Employers
Need to Know in 2026**

**IMMIGRATION POLICY
UPDATE: WHAT'S CHANGED IN
2026**

September 29, 2026
Time: 10:30am-11:30am
Venue: Atlantic City, NJ

October 1, 2026
Time: 12:00pm-2:00pm
Venue: [Online via Zoom](#)

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