



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

Dear Reader,

DHS has proposed a new \$103,265 fee on all H-1B cap-subject petitions, separate from the \$100,000 Proclamation fee still vacated on appeal. It's only a proposed rule for now, with public comments due September 24, 2026.

We expect a final rule sometime around January 2027, likely followed quickly by legal challenges. We think an injunction is more likely than not, but the real risk is timing: it could come well before FY 2028 lottery registration opens in March 2027, or within days or hours of it. Employers who wait to see how litigation plays out may end up deciding under pressure, with no time to plan.

We encourage employers to settle on an approach now and communicate it to affected employees. Not knowing whether an employer plans to move forward is a real source of anxiety for sponsored workers, and it's worth getting ahead of.

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:

IMPORTANT UPDATE FOR F-1 STUDENTS AND J-1 EXCHANGE VISITORS: DHS FIXED-PERIOD ADMISSION RULE TAKES EFFECT SEPTEMBER 15, 2026.

Back in July, we sent an initial alert letting you know that DHS had finalized this rule (you can revisit our original post, “It’s Final: DHS Ends Duration of Status for F, J, and I Visa Holders,” here). Since then, several important developments have occurred, including a legal challenge to the rule, so we wanted to follow up with a fuller picture of what is changing, what it means for you, and where things currently stand.

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

DHS PROPOSES NEW \$103,265 H-1B FEE — SEPARATE FROM (AND ON TOP OF) THE \$100,000 PROCLAMATION PAYMENT.

On August 24, 2026, DHS announced a proposed rule that would add a new \$103,265 fee to all H-1B cap-subject petitions, including those eligible for the advanced degree exemption. The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking was published in the Federal Register on August 25, 2026.

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

GREEN CARD INTERVIEWS DELAYED WORLDWIDE AS STATE DEPARTMENT RETRAINS CONSULAR STAFF.

Applicants pursuing a green card through a U.S. embassy or consulate are running into an unexpected roadblock this fall. A State Department official confirmed on August 25, 2026, that immigrant visa interview appointments have been paused across posts worldwide so that consular officers can go through additional training — leaving many families and sponsored workers with no clear date for their case to move forward.

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

CBP SCRUTINY OF REMOTE H-1B WORK DURING TRAVEL: WHAT THE ABU DHABI PRECLEARANCE REPORTS REVEAL.

A pattern reported by immigration attorneys earlier this year is worth flagging for any H-1B employer or employee who travels internationally while working remotely.

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

THE IMMIGRANT SCIENTISTS BEHIND A MAJOR CANCER VACCINE BREAKTHROUGH.

A major cancer research breakthrough highlights the important role immigrants play in American science and innovation. Moderna and Merck's positive results for their personalized mRNA melanoma vaccine build on scientific advances shaped by immigrant researchers, reinforcing the importance of immigration pathways that help the U.S. attract and retain global talent in medicine, biotechnology, and research.

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

FEDERAL COURT STRIKES DOWN 75-COUNTRY IMMIGRANT VISA BAN: WHAT CLINIC V. RUBIO MEANS FOR PENDING CASES.

On August 21, 2026, a federal judge in the Southern District of New York struck down the State Department's ban on immigrant visa issuance for nationals of 75 countries, ruling that the policy exceeded the Secretary of State's authority and violated the nationality-discrimination prohibition built into U.S. immigration law.

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

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

The September 2026 Visa Bulletin closes out Fiscal Year 2026 with significant forward movement in several family-sponsored categories, while the major employment-based categories remain largely unchanged from August.

[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

THE DHANASAR STANDARD EXPLAINED: EB-2 NIW REQUIREMENTS.



THE KAZARIAN STANDARD EXPLAINED: WHY EB-1A GREEN CARDS GET DENIED.



UPCOMING EVENTS

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

September 29, 2026

Time: 10:30am-11:30am

Venue: Atlantic City, NJ

IMMIGRATION POLICY UPDATE: WHAT'S CHANGED IN 2026

October 1, 2026

Time: 12:00pm-2:00pm

Venue: [Online via Zoom](#)

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VISASERVE Plaza, 487 Goffle Road, Ridgewood, New Jersey 07450
USA

Phone: 201-670-0006 | E-mail: info@visaserve.com | Website: <https://visaserve.com>

Locations: [Raritan Office](#) | [New York City Office](#) | Florida Office | Canada Office | Affiliated
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