



OLSEN LAW FIRM IMMIGRATION NEWSLETTER

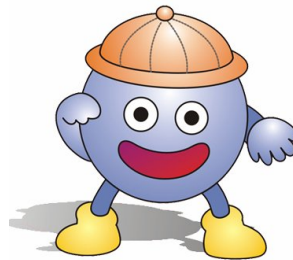
JANUARY 2007

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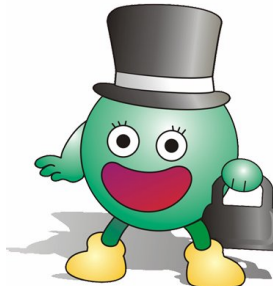
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We welcome you to meet the Immis! They help us simplify the immigration process for you. The Immis are in every issue of our newsletter and act as your personal guides to various immigration topics.



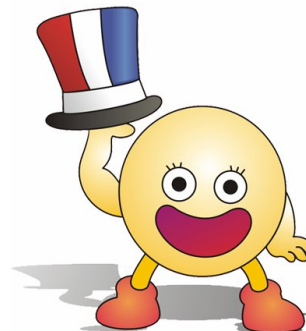
Immi Jr.

Immi Jr. will address nonimmigrant issues



Immi

Immi will address immigrant issues



Citizen Immi

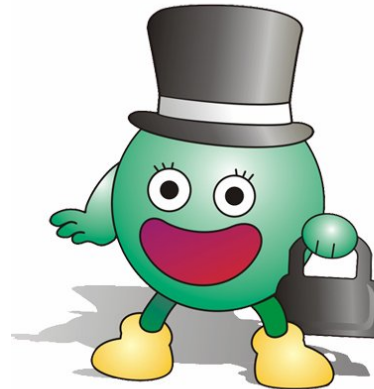
Immi will address citizenship issues

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IMMEDIATE INFORMATIONAL RELEASES

Immi says: Remember, USCIS will accept an I-907 signed by an attorney or accredited representative, if the packet contains a properly signed petition and G-28 signed by the petitioner or applicant.

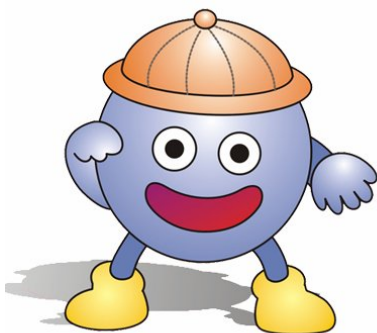


USCIS ON FORM I-907 REQUEST FOR PREMIUM PROCESSING SERVICE SIGNATURE POLICY

SOURCE: AMERICAN IMMIGRATION LAWYERS ASSOCIATION (AILA)

USCIS Service Centers Operations (SCOPS) will accept an I-907 signed by an attorney or accredited representative of the petitioner or applicant when the underlying filing contains a properly signed petition and G-28 signed by the petitioner or applicant. The rule that neither the beneficiary nor the beneficiary's attorney or accredited representative can request premium processing remains in place. Thus, if the G-28 is from the beneficiary only, the attorney or accredited representative may not sign an I-907 requesting premium processing.

The Service Centers started rejecting I-907s signed by attorneys, declaring that an attorney signature can be accepted only if a Power of Attorney is attached. SCOPS has now clarified that the Power of Attorney requirement is limited to those circumstances where an individual other than the petitioner or applicant is signing the petition or application as the petitioner or applicant. In that case, a Power of Attorney from the petitioner or applicant authorizing the other individual is required with respect to the petition or application. The attorney can directly sign the premium processing request form.



Immi, Jr. Says: Good News!! The Congress approved to expand the visa access for Athletes.

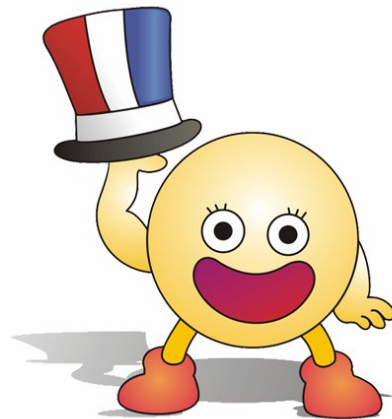
CONGRESS APPROVED EXPANDED VISA ACCESS FOR ATHLETES

SOURCE: AMERICAN IMMIGRATION LAWYERS ASSOCIATION (AILA)

On 12/9/06 the House passed the Creating Opportunities for Minor League Professionals, Entertainers, and Teams through Legal Entry (COMPETE) Act of 2006 (S. 3821), following passage by the Senate on 12/6/06. Once the President signs the bill into law, S. 3821 will expand P-1 nonimmigrant visa access to allow certain categories of athletes to perform or compete in the U.S.

The COMPETE Act amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to enlarge the scope of P-1 nonimmigrant visas to include: (1) a professional athlete; (2) a person who performs as an athlete, coach, or part of a team that is located in the United States and is a member of certain amateur foreign leagues or associations from which a significant number of individuals are drafted by major sports leagues or their minor league affiliates; and (3) a professional or amateur athlete who performs individually or as part of a group in a theatrical ice skating production coming to the United States in a specific ice skating production or tour. Currently P-1 visas are limited to athletes performing at an “internationally recognized level of performance.”

Citizen Immi Says: Look!! USCIS announced the pilot of a new naturalization exam. It will be fully implemented by spring 2008.



USCIS ANNOUNCED PILOT OF REDESIGNED NATURALIZATION TEST

SOURCE: AMERICAN IMMIGRATION LAWYERS ASSOCIATION (AILA)

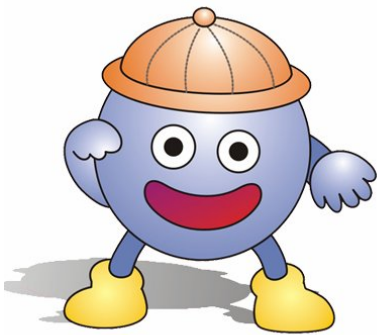
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Director Emilio Gonzalez announced the release of 144 questions and answers for the pilot test of a new naturalization exam. USCIS will administer the pilot exam in early 2007 to about 5,000 volunteer citizenship applicants in 10 cities.

“We found that the current naturalization exam process lacks standardization and encourages applicants to memorize facts just to pass a test, but that doesn’t guarantee that they understand the meaning behind the question,” said Director Gonzalez. “Our goal is to inspire immigrants to learn about the civic values of this nation so that after they take the oath of citizenship they will participate fully in our great democracy.”

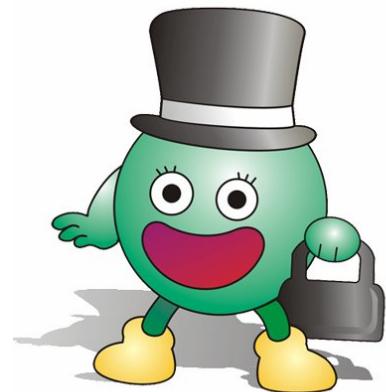
USCIS included new questions that focus on the concepts of democracy and the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. In designing the new exam, USCIS received assistance and worked with test development contractors, U.S. history and government scholars, and English as a second language experts. USCIS also sought input from a variety of stakeholders, including immigrant advocacy groups, citizenship instructors and district adjudications officers.

The pilot will allow USCIS to work out any problems and refine the exam before it is fully implemented nationwide in the spring of 2008. The questions and answers are posted on the agency Web site, <http://www.uscis.gov>. Questions that are not successful in the pilot will be dropped, narrowing the list to the same 100 questions as the current exam. The range of acceptable answers to questions will increase so that applicants may learn more about a topic and select from a wider range of responses. In addition to new questions, USCIS will soon release a new civics-based vocabulary list to help applicants study for the English reading and writing portion of the proposed test.

During the trial period, volunteer applicants who choose to take the pilot exam can immediately take the current exam if they incorrectly answer a pilot question. To pass, applicants will have to correctly answer six of 10 selected questions. The 10 pilot test sites are: Albany, N.Y.; Boston, Mass; Charleston, S.C.; Denver, Colo; El Paso, TX; Kansas City, Mo.; Miami, Fla.; San Antonio, TX; Tucson, Ariz.; and Yakima, Wash.



Immis Say: Asylees need to be aware of all requirements for traveling to and from the U.S.



TRAVELING OUTSIDE THE U.S. AS AN ASYLUM APPLICANT, AN ASYLEE, OR A LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT WHO OBTAINED SUCH STATUS BASED ON ASYLUM STATUS

SOURCE: AMERICAN IMMIGRATION LAWYERS ASSOCIATION (AILA)

Asylum applicants, asylees, and lawful permanent residents who obtained such status based on their asylum status are subject to special rules with regard to traveling outside the United States. This U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Fact Sheet describes the relevant statutes and regulations regarding traveling outside the United States as well as the consequences

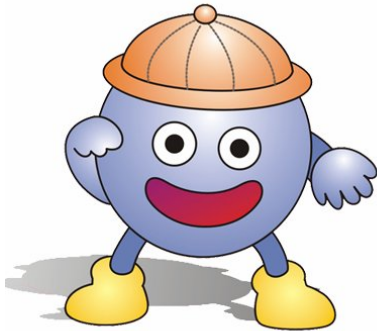
that could result if an asylum applicant, an asylee, or a lawful permanent resident who obtained such status based on his or her asylum status returns to his or her country of claimed persecution.

Therefore, an asylum *applicant* who leaves the United States without advance parole and returns to the country of claimed persecution shall be presumed to have abandoned his or her asylum application, unless the applicant is able to establish compelling reasons for the return. If an asylum applicant returns to his or her country of claimed persecution without advance parole, he or she should be prepared to explain the reason for the return. Asylum status may be terminated for specific reasons as listed in INA § 208(c)(2). An individual's underlying asylum status may be terminated even if the individual has already become a lawful permanent resident.

Returning to one's country of claimed persecution may be relevant to a number of termination grounds. For instance, asylum status could be terminated based on a fundamental change in circumstances in the asylee's country of persecution. Termination could also occur due to fraud in the asylum application such that the asylee was not eligible for asylum. Return to the country of feared persecution can, in some circumstances, be considered evidence that the asylee's alleged fear of persecution is not genuine. In addition, termination of asylum status could occur if an "alien has voluntarily availed himself or herself of the protection of the alien's country of nationality . . . by returning to such country with permanent resident status or the reasonable possibility of obtaining such status with the same rights and obligations pertaining to other permanent residents of that country."

Accordingly, an asylee or a lawful permanent resident who obtained such status based on a grant of asylum status may be questioned about why he or she was able to return to the country of claimed persecution and, in some circumstances, may be subject to proceedings to terminate asylum status.

QUICK INFORMATION BYTES

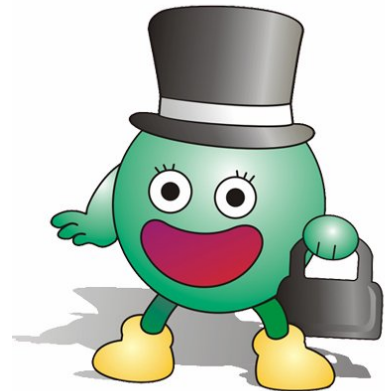


Immi, Jr. says: Remember to alert your DSO of all changes in your academic schedule.

SOURCE: TERRENCE L. OLSEN, ESQ., OLSEN LAW FIRM

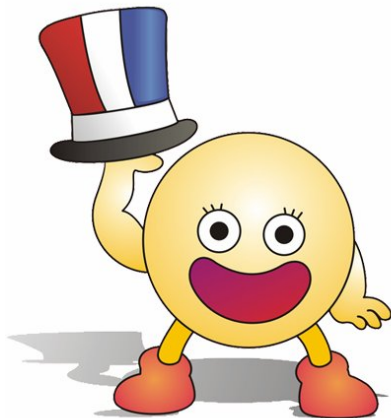
Immi says: Remember to keep many copies of your green card at your home, work, etc.

SOURCE: TERRENCE L. OLSEN, ESQ., OLSEN LAW FIRM



Citizen Immi says: Before filing your N-400, it is best to already have a list of all names previously used.

SOURCE: TERRENCE L. OLSEN, ESQ., OLSEN LAW FIRM



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Explanation: If you have questions concerning immigration related issues or concerns and are of a non-advice and pure general interest nature, please e-mail them to tolsen@tlolaw.com.

IMPORTANT IMMIGRATION RELATED WEB SITES

<http://uscis.gov/graphics/index.htm>

- US Citizenship and Immigration Services Web Link

<http://www.dol.gov/>

- Dept. of Labor Web Link

<http://www.state.gov/>

- Dept. of State Web Link

<http://www.embassy.org/>

- Embassies in Washington D.C. Web Link

<http://www.aviso.net/government/embassies/>

- Embassies Located Inside and Outside U.S. Web Link

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please visit: www.tlolaw.com for our web site

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