



## Immigration Update

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### USCIS Adjusted Immigration Fees Take Effect This Month



Beginning November 23rd, overall fees for USCIS immigration benefits will experience an increase of ten percent, with naturalization applications undergoing no change and the fees for six individual applications experiencing a decrease. The fee adjustment ruling comes after an assessment of USCIS budgets and recovery of costs. This fee review, by law, is required to take place every two years. [Click Here](#) to read full article and see a revised schedule of fees.

### Justice Department Settles Discrimination Allegations

The Justice Department announced that a settlement has been reached regarding allegations that Catholic Healthcare West, (CHW), the eighth largest hospital provider in the country, engaged in "citizenship status discrimination" throughout their employment processes. CHW was found to have required non-US citizens and naturalized citizens to present more work authorization documents than required, while not imposing the same standard to US citizens.

The civil penalties amounted to more than \$257,000, the largest amount ever paid to resolve such allegations. For the full article [Click Here](#).

### Certificates of Naturalization Redesigned for Enhanced Security

USCIS Director Alejandro Mayorkas

announced that a newly redesigned Naturalization Certificate with heightened security features will be distributed to over half of a million new citizens next year. The inclusion of digitalized photos, embedded signatures and new ink patterns on the Certificates will make them difficult to reproduce, thus aiding in the increased integrity of the immigration system. [Read More](#).



### U.S. Court of Appeals Issues Mandate Concerning Immigrant Religious Workers

The Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit overturned an injunction allowing special immigrant religious workers to file their Form I-485, Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status, concurrently with the Form I-360, Petition for Amerasian, Widow(er), or Special Immigrant. See *Ruiz-Diaz v. USA*, No. 09-35734 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. Aug. 20, 2010)

On November 8, 2010, USCIS stopped accepting adjustment of status applications filed concurrently with or based on pending I-360 petitions from persons seeking classification as special immigrant religious workers. To read full report and related files, [Click Here](#).

#### BALCA Issues Opinion Regarding Posting Requirements



The Board of Alien Labor Certification Appeals (BALCA) issued a ruling that allows weekend days to be considered business days in the ten-day internal posting requirement for notices of filing. This ruling applies to institutions such as hospitals and restaurants which conduct regular business on weekends. [Click Here for Opinion](#)

#### ICE Memo Discourages Actions at Sensitive Locations

A memo from Julie Myers, the Assistant Secretary at U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), has recently been posted to the USCIS web site. In the memo, dated July 3, 2008, Ms. Myers informs all special agents and field office directors to "refrain from conducting enforcement actions or investigative activities at or near sensitive community locations such as schools, places of worship, and funerals or other religious ceremonies." To read the memo in its entirety, [Click Here](#).

#### Happy Holidays!

The Holiday Season is fast approaching and the Marks Gray attorneys, staff and I would like to wish you and yours a Safe and Happy Holiday Season!

Please note that there will not be a December edition of the Immigration E-Newsletter - see you all in 2011!



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If you need assistance with any immigration-related issues, please contact Giselle Carson or Thyra Reveron at (904) 398-0900.

**Marks Gray, P.A.** is dedicated to customer service. We monitor proposed and current developments in the law. The contents of this newsletter are not intended as legal advice related to individual situations. If you have any questions about your particular situation, please contact a lawyer.

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