



Joseph Law Firm, P.C.

Immigration Law Specialists

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NEWSLETTER

March/April 2011

Exciting News!

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Jeff Joseph Will Attend National Day of Action

On April 7, 2011 the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) will host a National Day of Action in Washington D.C. to educate members of Congress about current issues in immigration. Jeff Joseph will travel to Washington D.C. to participate in the events and provide his unique perspective on the practice of immigration law. April 7th is also the National Day of Advocates during which AILA members will educate legislators nationwide about the implications of our broken immigration system.

Amber Blasingame Returns to Joseph Law Firm, P.C.

After graduating from the University of Denver, Sturm College of Law, in December, Amber spent more than two months studying for the Colorado Bar Exam. Amber took the exam on February 22 and February 23, and she has since returned to the Joseph Law Firm, P.C. Amber has been a valued member of Joseph Law Firm P.C. since 2002.

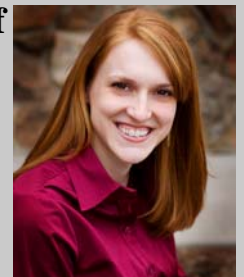


Aaron Hall's Comment Published in the Denver University Law Review

The DU Law Review published Associate Attorney Aaron Hall's comment about the Tenth Circuit decision in *Rosillo-Puga v. Holder* earlier this month. In that case, the Tenth Circuit ruled that aliens who have been removed from the United States are barred from filing a motion to reopen or reconsider their removal proceedings. For more information about Aaron's comment and the decision, visit our blog at: <http://josephlawfirm.blogspot.com/> or read his comment at: <http://www.denverlawreview.org>.

Aaron Hall & Megan Healy Clark Win Cancellation of Removal Case

Associate Attorney, Aaron Hall, and Case Manager, Megan Healy Clark, worked together and won a seven-year cancellation of removal case for their permanent resident client. The Immigration Judge's grant of relief allowed their client to be released from detention and remain in the United States with his family. Twenty-one of the client's family members attended his hearing, including his 91-year-old grandpa.



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Immigration News Updates!

USCIS Will Accept H-1B Petitions for 2012 in April

USCIS announced this month that it will begin accepting H-1B visa petitions for the 2012 fiscal year on April 1, 2011. The H-1B visa allows businesses in the United States to employ foreign workers in specialty occupations that require the application of specialized knowledge and the attainment of a bachelor's degree or higher. H-1B visa petitions are subject to an annual cap of 65,000. The first 20,000 petitions filed on behalf of individuals with U.S. master's degrees or higher are exempt from the cap. The final receipt date for 2011 H-1B petitions was January 26, 2011.

States Pursue Their Own Versions of the DREAM Act

The DREAM Act (acronym for Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors) is a legislative bill that would provide conditional permanent residency to certain undocumented students who arrived in the U.S. illegally as minors. Although a Senate filibuster blocked the bill on December 18, 2010, a few States have begun to develop their own versions of the DREAM Act.

On March 14th, Maryland legislators signed off on legislation that would make undocumented immigrants eligible for in-state tuition benefits at the state's public colleges. The measure passed by the State Senate allows for Maryland high school graduates, regardless of immigration status, to initially qualify for tuition breaks only at the state's community colleges. Those who receive an associate's degree could transfer to one of Maryland's four-year institutions and pay the in-state rate. Supporters said the out-of-state tuition rate — an average of \$10,000 more each year — makes higher education cost-prohibitive for most undocumented immigrants.

Connecticut is also considering a similar bill. Undocumented students would only qualify for the in-state tuition rate if they graduated from a Connecticut high school, and had attended Connecticut schools for at least four years.

Utah Governor Signs Immigration Reform Bills

Utah Governor Gary Herbert signed four immigration bills into law on March 15, 2011. The legislation has been labeled the "Utah solution" to immigration issues.

The new law creates a state guest worker program that allows undocumented immigrants to work in Utah legally if they can prove they have been working in the state, can pass a criminal background check and agree to pay a fine of up to \$2,500. Under the law, the governor is required to negotiate with federal officials for a waiver to permit the guest worker program. If the federal government does not agree to a waiver by 2013, the program will go into effect anyway. The legislation also details a plan to develop a partnership between Utah and Nuevo Leon, Mexico to bring temporary farm workers to Utah.

In addition, one of the four laws was an Arizona-style immigration bill that allows local police to check the immigration status of persons arrested for felonies or serious misdemeanors. Utah state lawmakers have reached out to the state's Congressional delegation to ask for help in receiving the necessary federal waivers to put the laws into effect. They are also asking Congress to develop federal solutions to immigration issues.

El Salvador Awaits Visit from President Obama

The Catholic Church in El Salvador awaits "a word of commitment" from President Barack Obama during his upcoming visit on March 22nd and 23rd. Archbishop Escobar Alas of San Salvador views this occasion as an opportunity to seek Obama's commitment in pursuing immigration reform. "We would like to ask the President of the United States for his efforts and his good will, so that complete immigration reform may take place during his presidency," said the Archbishop of San Salvador. The Foreign Minister, Hugo Martinez, said that El Salvador is evaluating the possibility of asking Obama for a "definitive migration solution" for its citizens living in the U.S. who enjoy the migration benefits of Temporary Protection Status.



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Our attorneys are all members of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, the national association of Immigration attorneys.

We have successfully represented clients before the Citizenship and Immigration Service, the Immigration Courts, the Board of Immigration Appeals, and the Federal Courts.

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