



Joseph Law Firm, P.C.

Immigration Law Specialists

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NEWSLETTER

September/October 2010

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Joseph Law Firm, P.C. Recognized For Professional Excellence

Joseph Law Firm, P.C. is pleased to announce that the firm has been ranked amongst the best law firms in the country by *U.S. News & World Report*. Joseph Law Firm, P.C. received a Tier 1 rating, the best rating possible, in the area of immigration law.

Jeff Joseph, Senior Partner, and Joseph Law Firm, P.C. have also recently been recognized by their peers for excellence in immigration legal practice. Jeff was selected for inclusion in the 2011 edition of *Best Lawyers in America* in the specialty of immigration law. *Best Lawyers in America* is an annual publication of outstanding attorneys in different legal practice areas. Selection is based on over 3.1 million exhaustive surveys of lawyers by their peers.

Jeff Joseph and Joseph Law Firm, P.C. continue to receive the highest possible rating from Martindale-Hubbell's Peer Review Ratings, which are based on ethical standards and attorney ability.

Senior Attorney, Melanie Corrin, Appointed To Colorado Bar Association Committee

Melanie Corrin, Senior Attorney at Joseph Law Firm, P.C., was recently appointed to the Colorado Bar Association Ethics Committee. The Committee gives ethics advice to Colorado lawyers, and responds to ethics inquiries of attorneys across Colorado.

Members Of Joseph Law Firm, P.C. Speak To Paralegals At Rocky Mountain Paralegal Association Event

On August 19, 2010, Jeff Joseph (Senior Partner), Melanie Corrin (Senior Attorney), and Amber Blasingame (Paralegal Case Manager) spoke to paralegals and paralegal students at the Rocky Mountain Paralegal Association's Membership Luncheon. According to one participant, students were "struck by [Joseph Law Firm's] professionalism and expertise in the field of Immigration Law."



Jeff Joseph, Senior Partner, Scheduled To Speak At The Fall Conference Of The American Immigration Lawyers Association

On September 25, 2010 Jeff Joseph, Senior Partner, spoke in San Antonio, Texas to immigration lawyers from around the country on advanced issues in employment-based adjustment of status.

Immigration News Updates!

Immigration Reform Resurfaces In Congress But Fails After A Close Vote

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) announced that he would attempt to attach an immigration reform measure to the annual Department of Defense authorization bill this fall. The immigration reform measure is the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act, also known as the DREAM Act. The DREAM Act has been introduced in both houses of Congress several times before, but neither the Senate nor the House of Representatives has ever voted to approved the bill.

The DREAM Act would give conditional resident status, and a path to permanent resident status, to certain immigrants who arrived illegally in the United States as minors. To qualify for six years of conditional resident status under the DREAM Act, undocumented immigrants would have to have arrived in the United States before age 16, resided in the United States for at least five consecutive years since arriving, and graduated from a United States high school. In addition, qualifying immigrants would have to be of good moral character and be between the ages of 12 and 35 when the DREAM Act became law.

During the six year conditional resident period, a qualifying immigrant would be required to graduate from a two year community college program, complete two years of a four year college program, or serve two years in the United States military. Once a qualifying immigrant met one of these three criteria during the six year conditional resident period, he or she would be able to adjust to permanent resident status. The New York Times has estimated that approximately 800,000 people would qualify for the initial conditional resident status.

President Obama has voiced his support for the DREAM Act, and previous incarnations of the Act have received bipartisan support in Congress. Also, United States military leaders have expressed support for previous versions of the Act because it would boost military recruitment efforts. However, Republican opposition to the bill remains substantial, and it is unclear what chance the Act has of being passed by Congress this fall, especially in the midst of many contentious campaigns leading up to midterm elections in November.

On September 21, 2010, the Defense Authorization Bill failed to garner enough votes in the Senate, so the DREAM amendment was not considered.

USCIS Reaches U-Visa Milestone

United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has approved the statutory maximum of U-Visa applications for 2010. U-Visas are available for victims of crimes who have suffered substantial physical or mental abuse and are willing to help law enforcement authorities in the investigation or prosecution of the crime. The U-Visa was created by the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act, and the visas were first issued in 2008. 2010 marks the first year that USCIS has granted the statutory maximum of 10,000 U-Visas per fiscal year.

USCIS will be able to resume issuing U-Visas when the new fiscal year begins on October 1. In the meantime, USCIS will continue to accept new petitions for U-Visas and will place conditionally approved petitioners on a waiting list.

ICE Relaxes Removal Risk For Non-Serious Criminals

The Obama Administration's Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has announced a shift in the way it enforces federal immigration laws. In an effort to reduce the backlog facing many immigration courts and detention centers, ICE Director John Morton has ordered agency officials to begin dismissing removal cases against people who have not committed serious crimes and have credible immigration applications pending. This directive is part of a broader effort to efficiently enforce federal immigration law by focusing enforcement on serious criminals who pose the greatest threat to public safety and national security.

OUR SERVICES

Joseph Law Firm, P.C. —

A full service Immigration law firm for over ten years. We use our knowledge, teamwork, professionalism and expertise to provide the highest quality legal services and results to individuals and businesses, one client at a time.

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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