

Brief History of American Immigration Policies

- Colonial Period;
- 1882-Chinese Exclusion Act
- 1929- National Origin Formula
- 1965- National Origin Formula abolished
- 1990- New Employment Visas and non-immigrant visas established.

Family Based-Immigration

- Immediate Family Members
- First Preference- Unmarried sons/daughters over 21 years old of US citizens
- Second Preference
 - A) Spouse and unmarried children under 21 of Legal Permanent Residents (green-card holders) and
 - B) Unmarried sons/daughters of US citizens
 - Third Preference – Married sons and daughters of US citizens
- Fourth Preference- Siblings of US citizens who are at least 21 years old

Employment Based Immigration

- First Preference: Priority Worker-Persons of extraordinary ability; Outstanding professors and researchers
- Second Preference- Professionals holding advanced degrees (any academic or professional degree above the BA) or
-Persons of exceptional ability in the sciences, art, or business –
- Third Preference-Skilled workers in short supply, professionals holding BA degrees, and other in other works in short supply.
- Fourth Preference- Certain Special Immigrants) –comprises of religious workers, employees of the US government abroad with 15 year or more years of service and certain employees of international organizations.
- Fifth Preference-comprised of investors who will create at least 10 jobs by investing in a new commercial enterprise benefiting the US economy; minimum investment must be \$1million dollars or \$500,000 in areas of high unemployment.

Diversity Visas

- 1995- annual visa lottery
- Selected by a mathematical formula
- 50,000 per year
- 2010 excluded countries: Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico, South Korea, etc.
- Educationally qualified
- Applications submitted electronically

Non-Immigrant Visas

- B-1 visa is for a Temporary Business Visitor:.
- -B-2 visas are issued to people coming to the US to visit friends or relatives, to vacation or to accompany B-1 visa holders.
- F-1 Visa -Academic students who are enrolled in an academic program in a high school, college, university, etc. are issued a F-1 visa for the period of study, plus a period of practical training.
- H-1B Visa--Generally available to "Aliens in specialty occupations" (professionals who have at least a bachelor's degree or who have certain relevant work experience).

- What is the Priority Date in obtaining a visa
- Websites: *Valuable websites: United States Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS) and the VISA Bulletin*

Citizenship

- 4 Statutory Requirements
 - Residency
 - Age
 - Literacy
 - Good Moral Character