

USCIS to Expand Premium Processing Service September 25, 2006

Effective September 25, 2006, U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services (“USCIS”) will expand its “premium processing” services of certain types of I-140 Immigrant Petitions. For an additional \$1,000 premium processing fee, USCIS will now provide initial adjudications within 15 calendar days of I-140 Petitions filed on behalf of certain workers in the following immigrant visa categories:

- EB-1, outstanding professors and researchers,
- EB-2, members of professions with advanced degrees or exceptional ability *not seeking a National Interest Waiver*, and
- EB-3, workers other than skilled workers and professional (i.e. unskilled labor requiring less than two years of training and experience).

On August 28, 2006, USCIS began accepting premium processing requests for two other immigrant visa categories including, EB-3 Professionals (i.e. immigrant workers with bachelor degrees who are members of the professions), and EB-3 Skilled Workers, (i.e. immigrant workers capable of performing skilled labor requiring at least two years of education, training or experience).

Petitioners and applicants who do not wish to use the expedited premium processing system may still submit I-140 petitions by paying the regular filing fees and their cases will be processed within the regular processing times (anywhere from two to twelve months).

If you have any questions about USCIS policies and procedures, please contact your McCandlish Holton immigration attorney.