

BUSINESS IMMIGRATION ALERT

A complimentary service of the McCandlish Holton Immigration Practice Group

Update on H-1B Availability

Each year, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) is authorized to issue up to 85,000 new H-1B approvals (65,000 for holders of bachelor's degrees or the equivalent, plus an additional 20,000 for holders of advanced degrees from U.S. colleges and universities). The first day petitions can be received by CIS is April 1. Today, CIS announced that, as of April 7, 2010 it had received approximately 13,500 H-1B petitions toward the 65,000 "undergraduate degree" cap and 5,600 counting toward the 20,000 "advanced degree" cap. These numbers are available to any applicant with a U.S. degree (undergraduate or advanced) or a foreign degree that is the equivalent of a U.S. degree, so long as the position offered requires the attainment of at least an undergraduate degree in the applicant's field.

As universities hold spring graduations, many international students will be filing for H-1B status, so employers and graduating students should expect available numbers to be reduced in the coming weeks. If you need assistance with an H-1B filing, please contact one of the McCandlish Holton immigration attorneys listed below.

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This Alert is a summary of important developments in business immigration law for clients and friends of McCandlish Holton's Immigration Practice Group. This publication does not constitute legal advice. Please consult with an attorney before acting on any information in this Alert. Information about the Immigration Practice Group and additional immigration-related information is located on our website at: www.lawmh.com/practice_areas/immigration.htm

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