

Employment-Based Priority Dates will be Current in July

The Department of State's July 2007 Visa Bulletin contains good news for persons who have been stuck in the backlog for employment-based green cards. For the month of July, green card numbers will be available in all employment-based preference categories, except for Third Preference "Other Workers" (those with less than two years experience, training or education). As a result, most employment-based applicants who have been waiting for their "priority date" to become current can now proceed with the final stage of the green card process, filing an Adjustment of Status application.

Employment-based green card numbers will not remain so widely available for long. The DOS anticipates that there will be retrogression starting in September for persons from China and India, and possibly for those from Mexico and the Philippines. In addition, significant retrogressions are expected to occur as soon as October.

Eligible applicants have the entire month of July to submit their applications. The Visa Bulletin for August 2007 will be released in mid-July, and only then will we know with any certainty whether green card numbers will remain available for August as well. Accordingly, eligible applicants are advised to file their Adjustment of Status applications within the month of July.

Visa Bulletins are available at www.travel.state.gov/visa/frvi/bulletin/bulletin_1770.html

For more information regarding immigrant visa availability and the green card process, please refer to prior posts on our website, or contact your McCandlish Holton immigration attorney.