

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Immigration Update: Reminder: April 1st H-1B Filing Deadline Fast Approaching

By Nancy-Jo Merritt and Matthew J. Martinez

We remind you that April 1st will be the first day on which initial H-1B petitions can be filed for foreign national employees. If you have prospective or current employees who will need initial H-1B status in U.S. Fiscal Year 2010, which begins October 1, 2009, please notify us as soon as possible. As in past years, there will be only 65,000 slots for new H-1Bs and 20,000 extra slots for new H-1Bs with advanced degrees from U.S. universities. Although the current economic pressures may result in fewer new H-1B applications this year, we expect it may be necessary again to file all initial H 1B petitions for April 1 delivery. This year, April 1 falls on a Wednesday, so mark your calendars in case it is the only open filing day.

Nancy-Jo Merritt focuses her practice in immigration law and has nearly three decades of experience representing domestic and international companies with issues concerning foreign national employees and business immigration matters. She provides strategic counseling to clients and assists employers in developing compliance programs. She earned her B.A. (1964) M.A. (1974) J.D. (1978) from Arizona State University.

Matthew J. Martinez focuses his practice in in the area of immigration and nationality law. Mr. Martinez works with companies to conduct internal I-9 audits in an effort to assess compliance with immigration, employment and discrimination laws, and works with clients to develop hiring policies and procedures. He also assists employers in responding to agency-initiated workplace investigations and in defending against immigration-related discrimination complaints. He earned his B.S. (1995) and his J.D. (1999) from Brigham Young University.



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