

CLIENT BULLETIN

TO: All Cohen & Grigsby, P.C. Immigration Clients
FROM: Cohen & Grigsby, P.C. Immigration Group
DATE: June 14, 2007
RE: Immigration Bulletin

Good News for Employment-Based Permanent Residence Applicants

The July Visa Bulletin reports that the employment-based first, second and third preferences are "Current" for all countries. This unexpected development means that during the month of July, permanent residence-eligible employees (and their spouses and unmarried, minor children) can file Form I-485 adjustment of status applications regardless of their priority dates. This window could well close in August, so the families of all eligible employees should file during the month of July.

At the same time, USCIS has very substantially increased filing fees. The I-485 per-adult filing fee escalates from \$325 to \$930. The increases are effective on Monday, July 30.

The combination of these developments dictates the following cost-effective filing strategy. Because of the manner in which the USCIS Regional Service Centers collect their mail, open it and formally accept applications, in order to be sure that the lower filing fees can be paid, the I-485 applications should arrive at USCIS Regional Service Centers no later than Saturday, July 28. This requires that the last day that we can ship I-485 applications is Friday, July 27. We will be asking employees and their family members to supply us with the necessary documentation by Friday, July 20, at the latest so that the deadline can be met. Of course, we hope to file most I-485 applications long before July 27.

We will be in touch with you shortly with specific directions as to your particular case(s). If, in the meantime, you have any questions, please contact any member of the Cohen & Grigsby Immigration Group.