



# Beach-Oswald Immigration Law Associates Newsletter

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Washington, DC  
Immigration Lawyers

Issue 8 - July 15, 2008

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Beach-Oswald is a full-service law firm, concentrating on immigration law. We have special expertise in work visas, family based visas, visa waivers, green cards through family and employment and asylum. We have staff members who speak many different languages to assist you.

We succeed when others don't!

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## First 50 new callers will receive a free consultation!

Mention this advertisement, and receive your initial consultation at no charge!  
Offer valid through August 15

## Travel Made Easy Between the U.S. and the United Kingdom

On June 24 the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) signed an agreement with the government of the United Kingdom that will facilitate travel between the two countries. The new program is called The International Expedited Traveler Initiative, and it is designed to expedite the entry process for travelers that are a low-risk security threat. UK citizens are expected to be able to apply to travel through this program later this year. The U.S. signed a similar travel agreement with the Netherlands on May 19, 2008. For more information, please visit the CBP website at [www.cbp.gov](http://www.cbp.gov).

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## No Premium Processing Service for R-1 Petitions



The suspension of premium processing service for religious worker nonimmigrant visas (R-1), which was originally to stay in effect for six months, will continue for another six months until at least January 7, 2009.

Premium processing service guarantees 15 day processing for certain employment based visa petitions with the payment of an extra fee. However, due to the fact that in April 2007 USCIS had proposed significant changes to regulations for R-1 religious worker visas in an effort to eliminate fraud in the religious worker program, the agency has realized that it cannot at this time guarantee the processing of R-1 visas within 15 days. USCIS hopes that premium processing service will once again be available for R-1 visas in the future.

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### Quick Links

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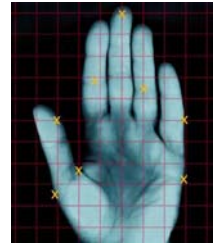
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## Don't Forget Your Biometrics for Re-Entry Permits and Refugee Travel Documents

As of March 5, 2008, the new instructions for the Application for Travel Document (Form I-131) require those applying for re-entry permits and refugee travel documents to have their photographs and fingerprints taken at a USCIC Application Support Center for the purpose of conducting background checks and to meet heightened security measures. The USCIS encourages applicants to apply well in advance of their anticipated travel date to allow sufficient time for their biometrics to be processed and for the travel document to be issued. Those requiring expedited processing must follow the specific instructions for submitting a request for expedited processing, and must include a valid reason for their request. The new instructions only apply for re-entry permits and refugee travel documents, and do not require Advance Parole applicants to submit their biometrics—the procedures for Advance Parole applicants remain the same.



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## A Special Visa for Iraqis

United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced on July 9 a special immigration visa for Iraqi nationals who worked for, or were contractors of the U.S. government in Iraq for at least one year after March 20, 2003. 5,000 of these special visas will be made available every year through the year 2012. A full description of eligibility requirements for this new visa are available online at:

[www.uscis.gov/files/nativedocuments/AD08-17.pdf](http://www.uscis.gov/files/nativedocuments/AD08-17.pdf).



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## ICE Raids Local Maryland Painting Business

Amid many reports of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raiding businesses and arresting illegal immigrants, the news hit a little closer to home recently when on June 30 ICE arrested 45 illegal aliens working at a painting company in Baltimore, MD. Those arrested came from El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nigeria and Panama. Approximately five out of those arrested were eligible for release on humanitarian grounds, but all will have to appear before an immigration judge to determine whether they will be granted the right to remain in the United States.



## Work Authorization for Refugees and Asylees Now Valid for Two Years



When a refugee or asylee applies for an employment authorization document (EAD) for the first time, the document remains valid for one year. Although the application fee is waived for the initial EAD, applicants incur a \$340 filing fee when they renew their work permit one year later. Given that refugees usually find themselves needing to renew their work authorization documents before they are able to adjust their status, the USCIS has just announced that it will lighten this financial burden on new immigrants by extending the validity of initial EADs to two years after arrival in the U.S.

## Asylum Seekers Along the Border

The Associated Press reports that there has been a significant increase in people seeking asylum along the U.S.- Mexico border due to drug-cartel violence. The news article states that at least 63 people have applied for political asylum at border crossings in West Texas and New Mexico between October and July, which is a significant rise compared to the 33 claims that were made during the entire fiscal year that ended in October. "The willingness of asylum-seekers to sit behind bars in the U.S. for months while they await a decision," the articles states "are a measure of how bad things are in Mexico and how fearful people have become."



To read the full article, please click here:

[http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/B/BORDER\\_VIOLENCE\\_ASYLUM?SITE=NVLAS&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT](http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/B/BORDER_VIOLENCE_ASYLUM?SITE=NVLAS&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT)

## US Considering Attracting More Au Pairs

In light of the fact that the number of au pairs in the U.S. has increased by more than 86% in the last decade, the State Department is considering revising the requirements for the au pair program to allow even more au pairs to participate. The proposed revisions would raise the age limit from 26 to 30, and would allow former participants to return for another year. The au pair program is popular because it allows young foreigners to take classes in the U.S. for up to two years while living with an American family and caring for their children. American families enjoy the arrangement because



they are able to obtain individualized childcare at an affordable price, as well as the chance to expose their children to various cultures.

For more on this story, click here:

[http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/A/AU\\_PAIRS?SITE=ORMED&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT](http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/A/AU_PAIRS?SITE=ORMED&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT)