



# Beach-Oswald Immigration Law Associates Newsletter

Washington, DC  
Immigration Lawyers

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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!**

## New Naturalization Test

As of October 1, 2008 US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) will begin implementing the newly redesigned citizenship test. USCIS's goal in redesigning the test was to make sure that all naturalization applicants have a consistent testing experience nationwide. USCIS hopes that the new questions will properly assess whether naturalization applicants have a good understanding of U.S. government and history. If you are scheduled to take the naturalization test, we recommend that you download a copy of the new test from the USCIS website at [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov). A direct link can be found [here](#). Depending on when your application was filed, you may be scheduled to take the current version of the test. The chart below determines whether you will be taking the current or the redesigned test:



Date Form N-400	Date of Initial	Test to be Taken	If Applicant Fails Initial Exam, Re-
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## Quick Links

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Filed*	Exam		test to be Taken
Before October 1, 2008	Before October 1, 2008	Current Test	Current Test
Before October 1, 2008	On or After October 1, 2008 up until October 1, 2009	Applicant's Choice of - Current Test or - Redesigned (New) Test	The same version of the test as the one taken during the initial examination
On or After October 1, 2008	On or After October 1, 2008	Redesigned (New) Test	Redesigned (New) Test
At Any Time (i.e. Before, On or After October 1, 2008)	On or After October 1, 2009	Redesigned (New) Test	Redesigned (New) Test

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## Naturalization Applications to Be Processed Faster

Due to a surge in naturalization applications filed in the summer of 2007 many have found themselves waiting months and even years for their naturalization application to be adjudicated. One of the main reasons that applications stay pending for a long time is because of a pending FBI name check. The USCIS has recently released a statement that they have made significant progress in the processing of naturalization applications. Whereas before the USCIS estimated that naturalization applications would take 16-18 months to process, they are now projecting that by the end of September 2008 naturalization applications will take 10-12 months to process.

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## 26 New Employers Join ICE's IMAGE Program



The ICE Mutual Agreement between Government and Employers (IMAGE) program was started in 2007 with the goal of assisting employers in certain targeted sectors combat the prevalence of illegal workers and fraudulent documents in the workplace. On September 9, 2008, ICE held a ceremony at its new headquarters in Arlington, VA where they signed on 26 companies that will now be members of the IMAGE program. Companies choose to participate in the IMAGE program voluntarily, and by doing so, they will receive education and training on proper hiring procedures, anti-discrimination procedures, how to detect fraudulent documents, and how to properly use the E-Verify system. The employers that decide to participate in the IMAGE program must agree to:

- Complete a self-assessment questionnaire;
- Enroll in E-Verify;
- Enroll in the Social Security Number Verification Service;
- Adhere to IMAGE Best Employment Practices;
- Undergo an I-9 audit conducted by ICE; and
- Review and sign an official IMAGE partnership agreement with ICE

To find out more details about what the IMAGE program entails, please visit <http://www.ice.gov/partners/opaimage/index.htm>

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## New Report Shows That Very Few of Those Arrested Are Illegal Immigrants



Virginia's Prince William County made national headlines when it announced in March that it would implement a tough policy by checking the immigration status of all criminal suspects, no matter how minor the offence, and placing into deportation anyone found to be in unlawful status. The rest of the State was said to be following suit in its crackdown on illegal immigrants. Interestingly enough, a status report done six months after this program started revealed that fewer than 2% of those charged with crimes in Prince William County were undocumented. To read the Washington Post article on this subject, please visit <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/09/AR2008090903387.html>

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## Delays Expected in Building the Border Fence



Department of Homeland Security officials (DHS) have acknowledged that it is unlikely that the Bush administration will be able to complete 670 miles of border fence by the end of the year as required by Congress. DHS cited rising construction costs, potential environmental and historic preservation delays, and problems acquiring private land along the border as some of the reasons behind the delay. The \$3.5 billion Secure Border Initiative is expected to exceed its budget by \$400 million, and DHS has stated that they are running out of money. To read the complete Washington Post article, go to <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/10/AR2008091003419.html>

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