



January 30, 2007

Hello,

IMMIGRATION LAW UPDATE:

New US Passport Rules

As of January 23rd, all airline passengers from a non-US destination who land in the US will be required to carry a passport to obtain entry. As a result, applications for passports are up 53 percent in the US and 33 percent in Canada from 2005. It is estimated that 27 percent of US citizens have passports, and 40 percent of Canadians have passports. For information about obtaining a US passport, please see our previous Immigration Update.

Online Address Change

As announced by the US Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS), foreign nationals are now able to submit change of address requests to USCIS online. Please note that applicants for naturalization should continue to report change of addresses by calling USCIS customer service at 1-800-375-5283 until the online system for applicants is linked in May. All non-US citizens living in the US are required to provide their new addresses to USCIS within 10 days of the change.

H-1C Nurse Visa Reauthorized

On December 26, 2006, US Citizenship and Immigration Services announced that the H-1C program for nurses was extended to December 2009. H-1C status is a temporary employment visa for nurses who will work in the US in areas that the Department of Labor has determined have a nurse shortage. The nurse must have an employer sponsor, have an unrestricted nursing license, be authorized as a nurse in the state where he/she will work, and will work at a facility that provides health care services. For additional information about H-1C visas, please see the Clark Hill website.

Schedule A Priority Date Retrogression

Schedule A workers include nurses and physical therapists who have an employer sponsoring them for a green card. A priority date is the date an application is initially filed in the green card process, and determines the applicant's place in line to receive a green card. Foreign national workers are classified into one of five categories. Generally, the higher a person's employment based category, the more likely a visa will be available (e.g. workers in the EB1 category more likely to have a visa available than those who are EB2). For additional information about priority dates, please see our previous Immigration Update. Schedule A employees generally fall within category EB3. However, legislation enacted in 2005 allocated an additional 50,000 immigrant visas specifically for Schedule A workers, and

created a new priority date category for these workers. As of [November 1, 2006](#), these specially allocated visas had been used and are no longer available. Therefore, nurses and physical therapists are returned to the EB3 category (they are no longer listed separately) and must wait for their [priority date to become current](#).

Clark Hill, PLC and Brady Hathaway Join Firms

On January 3, 2006, [Clark Hill and Brady Hathaway announced](#) that the firms have joined. Brady Hathaway specializes in management labor and employment matters, and its eight attorneys have joined Clark Hill's Labor and Employment Practice Group. The move makes Clark Hill's Employment group one of the largest and most distinguished in Michigan, with more than 30 attorneys. For more information about Clark Hill's Labor and Employment group, please [visit our website](#).

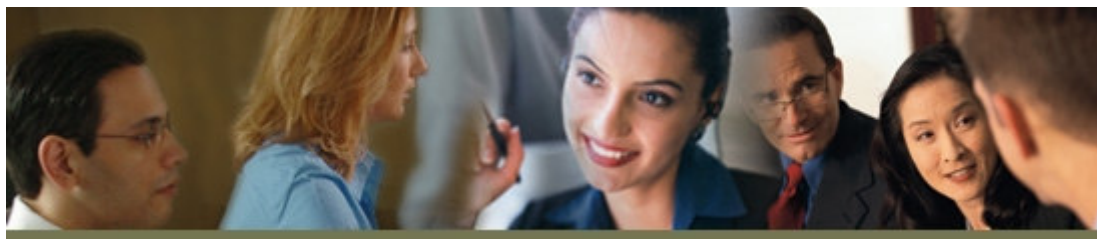
Clark Hill, PLC Opens A Chicago Office

On January 18, [Clark Hill, PLC announced](#) that it has opened an office in downtown Chicago. The Chicago office specializes in the construction, real estate, manufacturing and financial services industries. Currently, it has seven attorneys, with plans to increase the number significantly in the next year.

Upcoming Conferences and Webinars

On Tuesday, February 13, Clark Hill's Employment Group will present a webinar entitled "Michigan's New Security Breach Notification Law". For additional information, or to register, [please visit the Clark Hill website](#).

On Tuesday, March 27, Clark Hill will host its 23rd Annual Labor and Employment Conference at The Inn, St. John's in Plymouth, Michigan. For additional information, or to register for the conference, [please visit the Clark Hill website](#).



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