



Monday, November 19, 2007

LAST CHANCE FOR GREEN CARD LOTTERY

For those interested in applying for a green card and who feel a little lucky, applications under the DV-2009 lottery must be filed before December 2, 2007.

Generally speaking, to apply for the lottery, you don't need any special qualifications other than a high school diploma and you don't need a sponsoring employer.

Certain nationalities are not eligible. If you or anyone you know might be interested, please visit our website for information and for access to the required government form.

NEW I-9 FORM

This is the form employers

must complete when hiring a new employee. On November 7, 2007, USCIS announced that a revised Form I-9 is available as well as a new instruction booklet (M-274).

The main revision is the removal of five documents that could previously be used for proof of both identity and employment eligibility. Use of the new form is preferred by the government but will not be mandatory until a notice is published in the Federal Register.

H & L VISA HOLDERS WHO TRAVEL

A few years ago, USCIS eliminated the need to obtain an advance parole document for H and L visa holders who filed adjustment of status applications but required they

present their I-797 receipt for their adjustment of status application at the time of their re-entry. This latter requirement has recently been eliminated in an effort to facilitate international travel by these H and L visa holders.

STATUS INQUIRIES IN JAPAN

A special form has been created by the American Embassy in Tokyo to allow applicants for E registration to ascertain the status of their registration/application. For all other inquiries, the consulate's Visa Information Service must still be used. They can be accessed at the Consulate's website.