

Immigration Attorney Magdalena Cuprys publishes the second article in her instructional series, on business visa issues

Lawyer Magdalena Cuprys addresses and explains several issues surrounding business work visas in the U.S. and explores possible alternatives

MIAMI, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES, September 13, 2018 / EINPresswire.com/ -- In the second article of her series of Instructional Articles, <u>Florida Attorney Magdalena</u> <u>Cuprys</u> comments on business visas for employment and possible alternatives.

Preliminary Considerations

Many visa applicants assume that once they complete the lengthy and expensive visa process and detailed interviews both at the U.S. Embassy and upon arrival in the U.S., they have accomplished their American Dream. If only that could be true.



Magdalena Cuprys, Immigration Lawyer in Florida

Once they recover from the whole fingerprinting and interviewing stress, there is more to come. Whether you are a professional or a student, American bureaucracy will keep you busy for at

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Immigration Lawyer

least the first two months upon your arrival. You will quickly learn that one simply cannot function without the magic nine digits, known as a social security number (SSN). The social security system was designed to track income and earnings so that people could collect payments at a later point based on how long and how much they contributed over time. However, since the government assigns a unique number to each individual, other institutions like to use it for their own purposes. Not having the SSN will make it impossible to open a bank account, as well as to receive a paycheck! Finding a local social security office should be your top priority, especially since you will have to wait for weeks before you get your number in the mail. However, once it arrives, all the

barriers and frustration will disappear, and you will be all set to start your new American life.

ALTERNATIVES TO THE H-1B VISA

Because H-1B work visas are limited (currently only 65,000 per year, plus 20,000 for holders of advanced U.S. degrees), it is important to keep in mind that there are alternatives that can help you bring needed foreign workers to the United States. You might want to consider some of the other nonimmigrant visa categories available that are not subject to this limitation. Here are some of the choices:

B-1 in lieu of H-1B

This visa allows employees of a foreign company to come to the United States to participate in a project or training program. Only for short-term assignments, this classification requires that the foreign national continue to be employed by the foreign company and return to the foreign company after the project in the United States has been completed. The visa holder cannot receive a salary or other remuneration from a U.S. source except for an expense allowance or reimbursement for incidental expenses.

Trainee visas: J-1 and H-3

These visas allow foreign students and professionals to enter the United States for the purpose of training or developing their careers with a U.S.based host organization for up to 18 months and 24 months of training, respectively.

Intracompany transferee: L-1 visa

CUPRYS & ASSOCIATES

Magdalena Ewa Cuprys, Attorney at Law

The Law Firm Cuprys & Associates is a full service, dynamic, and trustworthy law firm that specializes in immigration matters. The law firm is uniquely qualified to manage the most contentious and unusual immigration needs. Swift resolution of immigration-related issues is integral to a client's ability to conduct business or reach their personal goals in the United States. Located in Miami and Clewiston, the firm's offices provide corporate and individual clients of foreign nationality with temporary work permits for the U.S., green card petitions, criminal waivers and representation in removal proceedings cases. With over a decade of experience, the law firm provides clients with the confidence that their cases will be handled by an expert who understands their needs and how to obtain their goals. Although the majority of the law firm's clients live in Florida, it represents people from all over the United States and several foreign countries.

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One of the most useful tools available for international companies, the L1 visa category applies to foreign workers who work for a company with a parent, subsidiary, branch, or affiliate in the United States. These workers come to the United States temporarily to perform services either in a managerial or executive capacity (L-1A), or one which entails specialized knowledge (L-1B) for a parent, branch, subsidiary, or affiliate of the same employer that employs the professional abroad. The employee must have been employed abroad for the affiliated company on a full-time basis for at least one continuous year within the last three-year period to qualify. L-1 visas are issued up to a maximum initial period of three years and can be extended for up to seven years for L-1A managers and five years for L-1B specialized knowledge personnel.

Treaty Trader/Investor: E-1/2 visas

These visas are available to nationals of certain countries that have trader and/or investor

treaties with the United States. The E-1 Treaty Trader visa allows you to establish and run a U.S. business that has substantial trade with your home country. The E-2 Treaty Investor visa allows you to establish and run a business with a "substantial investment" E visas are issued initially for two years and can be extended almost without limit.

Individuals of Extraordinary Ability: O-1 visa

The O-1 visa category is reserved for individuals of "extraordinary ability" in the sciences, arts, education, business, or athletics. To qualify as an individual of extraordinary ability, applicants must demonstrate that they possess "a level of expertise indicating that the person is one of a small percentage who has risen to the top of a field of endeavor." Even though it sounds like only Nobel-prize winners can qualify, the truth is that the USCIS has dropped the standard, and the O category has become a useful alternative category. An initial O-1 petition can be filed for up to a three-year maximum employment period. Subsequent extensions may be for no more than one year at a time. There is no limit to the number of extensions possible.

J-1 VISAS FOR CULTURAL EXCHANGE

Under the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, the U.S. Department of State's Summer Work/Travel program provides "foreign

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Services



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postsecondary students an opportunity to become directly involved in the daily life of the people of the United States through travel and temporary work for a period of up to four months during their summer vacation." Foreign students participating in the program are authorized to work anywhere in the United States. Typically, most students work in nonskilled service positions at businesses such as resorts, hotels, restaurants, and amusement parks. Hiring a foreign student through the Summer Work/Travel program has some distinct advantages.

EMPLOYMENT-AUTHORIZED CANDIDATES

All the <u>immigration</u>-related matters are coordinated by organizations designated by the U.S. Department of State (sponsors) to administer exchange-visitor programs.

The immigration process and the costs associated with hiring foreign students intimidate many businesses. More often than not, it is the foreign student who initiates the process with a sponsor. It is also the student who pays the sponsors the fee to obtain the required documents

to procure a J-1 visa for entry to the U.S.

CANDIDATES PROFICIENT IN ENGLISH

All prospective exchange visitor participants must possess sufficient proficiency in the English language to participate in their programs. (22 CFR §62.10(a)(2))

QUALIFIED CANDIDATES

All prospective exchange-visitor participants must be "bona fide postsecondary students actively pursuing degrees or full-time courses of study at accredited educational institutions, or as that status is defined by the foreign national's home country educational system." (22 CFR §62.32(b)(2))

Given this educational requirement, all program exchange participants will have completed a secondary-school education or its equivalent. Employers can be assured that candidates will have a certain level of education.

CANDIDATES SELECTED AND QUALIFIED BY YOUR BUSINESS

No prearranged employment before the foreign student enters the United States is required. Employers can make a hiring decision after the foreign student has arrived in the United States. Businesses will have the benefit of interviewing the candidate before extending an offer of employment. This will assure that the employment relationship will meet the needs of both the employer and the employee.

CULTURAL EXCHANGE

A foreign student could contribute wonderful cultural influences to a business. Likewise, the opportunity that an employer gives a foreign student to gain an insight into American business and culture is an experience of a lifetime.

Think beyond the traditional sources of seasonal employees. Participating in the Summer Work/Travel program may be just the thing a business needs to turn its next busy season into a financially and culturally rewarding experience.

The complete article will be published on the Blog of Ms. Cuprys at <u>https://magdalenacuprysblog.blogspot.com/</u>

About Magdalena Cuprys

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