

## **BREAKING NEWS**

### **New Federal Rule Requires UW Madison to Use E-Verify**

See details under [I-9 Employment Information](#)

### **Premium Processing Reinstated for Permanent Residence Petitions**

Effective 29 June 2009, premium processing service will once again be available for most Form I-140 immigrant worker petitions in the first, second and third employment-based preference categories, with the exception of petitions in the EB-1 subcategory for multinational managers and executives and in the EB-2 category under the national interest waiver. Therefore, all categories filed by UW-Madison can benefit from premium processing.

Under Premium Processing, in exchange for an additional \$1,000 fee, USCIS promises a 15-calendar-day processing time, meaning the petitioner would receive an approval, a request for evidence or a notice of intent to deny. If the petition is not processed within 15 calendar days, USCIS will refund the \$1,000 fee and continue to process the request as part of the premium processing service. In addition to faster processing, we have access to a dedicated telephone number and an email address to check on the status of the case or ask questions.

The beneficiary can pay the fee, unless doing so would drop the salary being offered below the prevailing wage for that occupation.

In order to file for premium processing, the department needs to complete form I-907 and submit it to IFSS along with the filing fee payable to USCIS. The form is located under the Permanent Residence section of the IFSS web.

### **Diversity Lottery Opens 2 October 2009**

#### **Diversity Lottery Fraud**

This notice is provided courtesy of the law firm Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen and Lowey:

In recent weeks, some foreign nationals have reported receiving notifications informing them that they have been selected in the annual Department of State (DOS) Diversity Visa (DV) Lottery. Foreign nationals should be aware that the only legitimate lottery notifications are those sent by mail directly from the Department of State. Notices received from commercial entities or individuals, or received by e-mail or fax are likely to be fraudulent.

Each year, the State Department conducts a Diversity Visa Lottery ("green card lottery"). Individuals selected in the lottery are eligible to submit an application for permanent residence. Foreign nationals enter the lottery by completing an online application at <http://www.dvlottery.state.gov>, the State Department's official lottery website. Applications must be submitted during the designated application period in the fall. There is no fee for the application. After the application period closes, the State Department conducts a lottery to randomly select the individuals who will be able to file a green card application for the following fiscal year. The State Department notifies lottery winners between May and July following the fall application period. Winners are notified directly by U.S. mail from the State Department's Kentucky Consular Center. Applicants can also check the status of their lottery entry at the official lottery website.

Foreign nationals should be aware that the State Department does not use or authorize any outside individual or entity to accept lottery applications or operate the Diversity Visa Lottery program. Unfortunately, fraud in connection with the lottery is common. Unscrupulous individuals set up fraudulent websites that pose as official government sites or that purport to be authorized by the State Department to accept

lottery applications, sometimes for very high fees. These individuals may also send e-mails, faxes or letters to foreign nationals, falsely claiming that the recipient has been selected in the lottery and requesting the recipient to send personal information and money.

Foreign nationals who have entered or plan to enter the lottery should take precautions to avoid becoming the victims of fraud. Though applicants may seek legal counsel or other assistance in preparing their applications, they should be wary of commercial websites that purport to register applicants in advance of the official lottery period or any individual or entity that claims to be authorized by the State Department. Foreign nationals should also be wary of any communication that is not sent directly from the State Department or that looks suspect in any way. No fees or personal information should be sent to a questionable individual or entity. See <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/alerts/alt003.shtm> for detailed information on Diversity Visa Lottery fraud from the U.S. Federal Trade Commission.