



“THE DISPATCH”

LOS ANGELES DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

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Community Based Organization & Consular Corps Edition

NOTICE TO COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS & CONSULATES RE: REPORTING OF CURRENT ADDRESS TO INS

A proposed rule would assist non-citizens who apply for benefits to ensure that the Service will be able to contact them with respect to any issues relating to their applications for benefits, which may include requests by the Service for additional information or for the non-citizens to appear for an interview in connection with the applications. Under the proposed rule, a non-citizen who fails to respond to such communications from the Service may lose substantial rights, because the Service will deem the non-citizen to have abandoned the application and deny it.

It is important for people to understand that the intent of the proposed regulation is to ensure that non-citizens are informed of the requirement to update their address records with INS in a timely manner. By ensuring that all non-citizens acknowledge this change of address requirement, INS can better serve and protect the public. Also, it is important to recognize that this is a *proposed* rule; it is *NOT* in effect yet. The proposed rule has a 30-day comment period. Designated INS forms will be revised to include a mandatory address notification requirement which will provide the Service with the applicant's most current address. More details will be forthcoming.

Anyone wishing to review the regulation can find it on the Federal Register website @ http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/aces140.html, and search the 2002 Federal Register for a proposed rule published July 26, 2002, and use the keyword “immigration.”

Written comments on the proposed rule should be submitted by August 26th to the following address: Director, Regulations and Forms Services Division, (HQRFS), Immigration & Naturalization Service, 425 “I” St., N.W., Room 4034, Washington, DC 20536.

Reference must be made to INS No. 2198-02 in the correspondence to make sure the comments are assigned to the right regulation. Comments may also be submitted electronically at insregs@usdoj.gov. When submitting comments electronically, the subject line should read INS No. 2198-02.

Reporting a change of address in the L.A. District is still accepted under the following situations: 1) Applicants for naturalization can continue to report a change of address by calling the National Customer Service Center, 1-800/375-5283; 2) Applicants for Adjustment of Status who have an in-person interview or a transaction with a district Adjudications Officer, are given an appropriate change of address form, issued at that time; or 3) Other district office staff will also provide non-citizens or applicants with

THE ORIGINAL NATURALIZATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NAC) AND ITS PURPOSE

On May 11, 1994, the first meeting of the Naturalization Advisory Committee (NAC) took place. The original purpose of the committee was to improve the naturalization process; to bridge the gap between the Service and the community and to improve the image of the Service. To reach these goals, certain individuals who were active in the naturalization arena were invited to attend the first meeting. As time passed, the committee began to identify problems and discussed many possible solutions to those problems by way of brainstorming during the regularly scheduled meetings that were held on the first and third Wednesdays of the month.

One of the ideas produced from the original NAC group was the “off-site” processing of applications also known as the Outreach Program for Naturalization. NAC members believed that an off-site processing concept would eliminate a great deal of clerical work for the INS while its officers could then concentrate on the interview itself. This resulted with more cases being scheduled per officer. Also, the fear of the naturalization test itself as well as the need to travel a long distance for an interview at an INS office could be eliminated.

To become a participating entity in off-site interviewing, the District agreed that organizations should be **501(c)(3), (4) or (5) non-profit organizations** or public educational institutions, such as unified school districts, with an established history and reputation for providing quality services at reasonable costs. INS agreed to provide training

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

8/7	NAC Meeting
8/15	Natz Ceremonies @ Pomona Fairplex
8/21	AIF Meeting
8/22	AILA Meeting
9/4	NAC Meeting
9/9	Consular Corps Conference
9/17	Natz Ceremonies @ L.A. Sports Arena
9/18	AIF Meeting
9/19	3rd Annual District Multi-Cultural Awareness Day, Roybal Courtyard
10/1	Fiscal Year 2003 Begins

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SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO RULES GOVERNING VISITORS & STUDENTS PROPOSED

Millions of visitors are admitted to the U.S. each year under business visitor (**B-1**) and tourist (**B-2**) visas. To gain greater control over their presence, the Service is proposing several changes to the rules governing visitor admissions.

Prohibition On Attending School Prior to Approval

A new rule, which will be published separately as an interim rule, takes effect immediately upon publication, but will still allow for public comment. The rule prohibits non-immigrant visitors admitted under B-1 or B-2 visas from pursuing a course of study at a school in the U.S. prior to receiving INS approval of their request to change non-immigrant status to that of an (**F**), academic or (**M**), vocational student. To facilitate this process, INS has set a target processing time of 30 days for all requests to change or extend non-immigrant status, with all four Service Centers achieving that target within the next 60 days.

Minimum Admission Period Eliminated

The proposed rule will eliminate the current minimum six months admission period for **B-2** visitors for pleasure, replacing it with "*a period of time that is fair and reasonable for the completion of the purpose of the visit.*" When **B** visa holders apply for entry to the U.S., they will be required to explain to an Inspector the nature and purpose of their visit so the Inspector can determine the appropriate length of stay. While Inspectors will make every effort to determine a fair and reasonable time period, the burden of proof rests with the alien. When the time needed to accomplish the purpose of the visit cannot be determined, INS will grant a 30-day period of admission.

Changes to Standards for Extension of Stay

The proposed rule will limit the conditions under which a **B** visitor can obtain an extension of stay, and will reduce the maximum extension period that can be granted. Persons in **B** status will be eligible to extend their stay in cases that have resulted from "*unexpected or compelling humanitarian reasons,*" such as medical treatment or a delay in the conclusion of a business matter. The request using Form I-539 (Application to Extend/Change Nonimmigrant Status) must be properly filed on a timely basis and be non-frivolous, and the alien must prove there are adequate financial resources to continue to stay in the U.S. and that he or she is maintaining a residency abroad. The rule also reduces the maximum extension that can be granted from one year to six months.

As nearly all visitors with legitimate business or tourism interests are able to complete their stay within a reasonable admission period, these changes should not adversely affect them. INS does recognize that some visitors, such as certain retirees who own vacation homes in the U.S. may wish to remain for longer than six months. The proposed rules will allow extensions of stay in such cases. The proposed changes to admission and extension of stay are part of a strategy to improve national security and reduce the probability that an alien will establish permanent ties in the U.S., and thus remain in the country illegally.

New Requirements for Change of Status

Individuals planning to attend school in the U.S. are expected to obtain the proper student visa prior to their admission. However, INS does recognize that some intending students will want to visit the U.S. first for bonafide visitor purposes, such as touring campuses or interviewing for admission. The proposed rule will establish new requirements for **B** non-immigrant visitor visa holders who wish to become students. (See next column)

Persons admitted under **B** non-immigrant visitor status will still be able to change their status to that of a student, but only if they stated their intent to study in the U.S. when they initially applied for admission and presented any I-20 forms they may have been issued. Inspectors will be required to note "**Prospective Student**" on the alien's I-94 form (Arrival/Departure Record). This rule will impact only those students admitted in **B** status after the rule's effective date.

Existing rules allowing the commencement of studies before a change of status is approved will continue to apply to those already in the U.S. in **B** non-immigrant visitor status, since they may have already started a course of study in reliance upon existing rules.

LIFE ACT-LATE LEGALIZATION UPDATE

Final Rule Issued for Adjustment of Status Under Legalization Provisions of the Life Act—New Filing Deadline is June 4, 2003

The Service recently announced the issuance of a final rule for adjustment-of-status application procedures under the Legal Immigration Family Equity (LIFE) Act, Legalization provisions, known as LIFE Legalization.

The final rule was published in the Federal Register 6/4/02, and ensures that those eligible to apply for legalization benefits under the provisions of the Life Act are able to do so by the new filing deadline date of 6/4/03 to comply with the Congressional mandate of allowing a one-year filing period commencing with the publication of the final rule. This will provide ample time for eligible applicants to apply for benefits under the final regulations.

"With the issuance of the final rule for benefits under the LIFE Act provisions, we are hopeful that more eligible applicants will submit their applications for lawful permanent residency in the United States," said **Commissioner James Ziglar**. "We believe the new filing deadline will provide a golden opportunity for all eligible applicants to become lawful permanent residents."

In order to qualify for adjustment, eligible applicants must file a Form I-485, Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status, with the \$255.00 filing fee supported by documentation establishing that by 10/1/2000, they filed a written claim for class membership in one of three lawsuits commonly referred to as **CSS**, **LULAC**, and **Zambrano**. Eligible applicants must also establish that they entered the U.S. before 1/1/82, and thereafter resided in continuous unlawful status through 5/4/88, and that they were continuously physically present in the U.S. from 11/6/86 through 5/4/88.

The final rule contains clarifications that should assist applicants in applying for permanent residence. One such example is that the final rule clarifies the standards used to determine whether an individual has filed an application for class membership. The rule clarifies that under certain specific circumstances, an alien who was the spouse or child of a person who filed a written claim for class membership is eligible to file an application for LIFE Legalization.

INS has attempted to resolve all difficulties raised during the comment period. One such resolution is that INS has added, through the final rule, a provision that allows an adjudication of a LIFE Act application under

DID YOU KNOW??????????...

The Service accepts **COPIES** of naturalization or citizenship certificates in support of a visa petition. Refer to 8CFR103.2.....

SPECIAL INSERT ON TPS EXTENSIONS – The Dispatch, Aug. '02

TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS (TPS) EXTENDED FOR HONDURANS AND NICARAGUANS

Employment Authorization Document (EAD) Automatically Extended to Dec. 5, 2002

As part of the Administration's ongoing efforts to assist countries affected by Hurricane Mitch, the Department of Justice (DOJ) announced in June, that Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Honduras and Nicaragua would be extended for a period of 12 months until July 5, 2003. The extension of TPS for Hondurans and Nicaraguans is effective 7/5/02 and will remain in effect until 7/5/03.

In an effort both to provide ample time for eligible Hondurans and Nicaraguans to re-register for TPS and to prevent potential gaps in employment authorization while such individuals wait for their applications to be processed, the Department of Justice is granting an automatic extension of the expiration date of the Employment Authorization Document (EAD) to December 5, 2002.

"Honduras and Nicaragua continue to make progress in recovering from the devastation of Hurricane Mitch. However, the environmental disaster following the disaster have resulted in substantial disruption of living conditions and both countries remain unable to handle adequately the return of its nationals," said Attorney General John Ashcroft. "This one-year extension reflects the Administration's continued commitment to provide assistance to the countries devastated by Hurricane Mitch."

Hondurans and Nicaraguans currently registered under TPS who desire an extension must re-register by filing **both** the TPS application (**Form I-821**) and an application for employment authorization (**Form I-765**) with the appropriate INS Service Center. For re-registration, there is **NO** fee for filing the I-821. However, a \$120 fee must accompany Form I-765 if an applicant requests employment authorization. If the applicant does not require employment authorization or already has employment authorization, Form I-765 is still required but **NO** fee is necessary. These forms are available from the toll-free Forms line, 1-800/870-3676, and from the website, www.ins.gov.

An applicant may request a waiver of TPS-related application fees by submitting proper documentation of inability to pay.

This extension does not allow Nicaraguans or Hondurans who entered the United States after December 30, 1998 to file for TPS. This extension covers only Nicaraguans and Hondurans who have been continually present in the U. S. as of 1/5/99 and who have continually resided in the U.S. since 12/30/98. An extension of TPS does not change the required dates of continuous physical presence and residence in the U.S. However, late initial registration is possible in some circumstances. In order to qualify for late initial registration, applicants must meet the original continuous physical presence and residency requirements of the initial registration period and they must demonstrate that during the initial registration period they:

- Were in a valid nonimmigrant status, or had been granted voluntary departure or other relief from removal;
- Had an application for change of status, adjustment of status, asylum, voluntary departure or other relief from removal pending or subject to further review or appeal; or
- Were a parolee or had a pending request for re-parole; or
- A spouse or child of an alien currently registered for TPS may apply for late initial registration at any time if he or she is otherwise eligible and was so at the time of the initial registration period.

Section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act authorizes the Attorney General to grant or extend TPS to aliens in the U.S. who are nationals of countries where armed conflict, natural disaster or other extraordinary conditions have created a temporary situation to which return is either unsafe or unfeasible.

MANDATORY SURRENDER PROPOSED FOR PERSONS WITH FINAL REMOVAL ORDERS

The Service is proposing a rule that will require aliens who are subject to final orders of removal to surrender himself or herself within **30** days to INS once those orders become final. Anyone who fails to surrender as required will be denied discretionary relief from removal—including asylum, adjustment to permanent resident status, change of status, waivers of inadmissibility for immigrants, cancellation of removal, voluntary removal, registration of LPR status—at any time while he or she remains in the U.S., and for a period of **(10)** years after the alien's departure from the U.S. This rule also establishes procedures for surrender to INS.

In the past, **89%** of non-detained individuals with final orders of removal failed to surrender for deportation when ordered to do so. Under this rule, persons not detained at the time an order of removal becomes final will have a legal obligation to surrender to INS within **30** days of the issuance of an administratively final order of removal.

The proposed rule will be published in the Federal Register for public comment. This rule is substantially the same as a proposed rule published by former Attorney General Janet Reno on 9/4/98. However, that rule only would have applied to individuals facing removal orders in the future, after publication of the final rule. It consequently would have exempted hundreds of thousands of individuals currently in removal proceedings, even though there would be many opportunities to provide the necessary notice to the alien. The new proposed rule includes aliens already in proceedings because they will receive legally adequate notice.

To deter individuals from absconding after they receive a final order of removal, this rule proposes that INS will be able to waive the denial of discretionary relief if an individual establishes that the failure to surrender was due to exceptional circumstances and that he or she appeared as soon as possible thereafter once circumstances allowed.

SPECIAL INSERT ON TPS EXTENSIONS—The Dispatch, Aug. '02

DOJ GRANTS 12-MONTH EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS (TPS) FOR ELIGIBLE EL SALVADORANS

Employment Authorization Automatically Extended Through March 9, 2003

Employers Should Accept A Copy of Federal Register, 7/11/02, Vol. 67, No. 133, INS No. 2212-02

As part of the Administration's ongoing efforts to assist El Salvador in recovering from the devastating earthquakes that affected the nation, the Department of Justice (DOJ) recently announced an extension of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for El Salvador for a period of 12 months until 9/9/03. This extension, which covers more than 260,000 Salvadoran registrants, is effective 9/9/02 and will remain in effect until 9/9/03. **Salvadorans with TPS or who have TPS applications pending must re-register during the re-registration period. The re-registration period begins 9/9/02 and will remain in effect until 11/12/02. Re-registration applications will not be accepted before 9/9/02.**

"As a direct result of the devastating earthquakes last year, there continues to be a substantial disruption of living conditions in El Salvador that has caused havoc to that country. Although El Salvador continues to make progress in the recovery, the environmental disaster makes it difficult for the country to handle adequately the return of its nationals," said Attorney General John Ashcroft. "This one-year extension reflects the Administration's continued commitment to assist El Salvador in its hour of need."

Re-registration is available only to persons who registered under the initial El Salvador TPS designation, which ends on 9/9/02. Nationals of El Salvador (or aliens having no nationality who last habitually resided in El Salvador) who previously have not applied for TPS may be eligible to apply for TPS under late initial registration provisions.

This extension does not allow Salvadorans who entered the United States after 2/13/01 to apply for TPS.

This extension covers only Salvadorans who have been continually present in the United States as of 3/9/01 and who have continually resided in the U.S. since 2/13/01. An extension of TPS does not change the required dates of continuous physical presence and residence in the U.S.

TPS beneficiaries who need to travel outside the U.S. during the coming year must receive advance parole from their local INS office prior to departing the U.S. Failure to do so may jeopardize their ability to return to the U.S. Advance parole allows an individual to travel abroad and return to the U.S. Advance parole is issued on a case-by-case basis. Individuals who are granted TPS may apply for advance parole by filing Form I-131 at their local INS district office

Section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act authorizes the Attorney General to grant or extend TPS to aliens in the United States who are nationals of countries where armed conflict, natural disaster or other extraordinary conditions have created a temporary situation to which return is either unsafe or unfeasible.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q. How do I re-register for a TPS extension?

If you already have been granted TPS through the El Salvador TPS Program, your TPS will expire on 9/9/02. Persons previously granted TPS under the El Salvador program may apply for an extension during the 60-day re-registration period from 9/9/02 through 11/12/02 **by submitting:** (If the applicant's application for TPS is still pending, he or she needs to re-register during the re-registration period.)

1) An Application for Temporary Protected Status, Form I-821; 2) An Application for Employment Authorization, Form I-765; and; 3) Two identification photographs (1 1/2" x 1 1/2"). Applicants for an extension of TPS benefits do not need to submit new fingerprints and therefore do not need to submit a \$50 fingerprint fee. Children who are beneficiaries of TPS and who have reached the age of 14, but who were not previously fingerprinted, must pay the \$50 fingerprint fee with their application for extension. Furthermore, attesting in part 1 of the Form I-821 to the continued maintenance of the conditions of eligibility will generally preclude the need for supporting documents or evidence. INS, however, reserves the right to request additional information and/or documentation on a case-by-case basis.

Fees: Applicants for re-registration need not submit the \$50 fee along with Form I-821. If the applicant requests employment authorization, he or she must submit a \$120 fee with Form I-765. An applicant who does not seek employment authorization need not submit the \$120 fee, but nonetheless must submit the Form I-765. The applicant may request a fee waiver in accordance with the regulations.

Q. Where should I submit the application for an extension of TPS?

Please do not go to an INS District Office. If applicants go to an INS District Office, they will be instructed to file their application with the INS Service Center that has jurisdiction over their place of residence. If you live in Arizona, California, Guam, Hawaii or Nevada, mail your application and applicable fees to: California Service Center, P.O. Box 10821, Laguna Niguel, CA 92607-0821

Q. Will Salvadoran nationals protected by TPS be permitted to travel abroad during the TPS period?

Those granted TPS must receive advance permission to return to the United States before traveling abroad. This advance permission is called Advance Parole. Failure to obtain advance parole prior to traveling abroad may result in the withdrawal of your TPS and/or the institution or re-calendar of removal proceedings.

Q. Where may I find forms and additional information?

Information concerning the TPS program for nationals of El Salvador (or aliens having no nationality who last habitually resided in El Salvador) is available at the INS Internet Web site, located at www.ins.gov or the INS National Customer Service Center, at **1-800/375-5283**. Applicants may obtain forms from the INS website or by contacting the INS Forms Line, **1-800/870-3676**.

NATURALIZATION N-400 OUTREACH PROGRAM- ADJUDICATIONS III

The Adjudications III Office is located at 9858 Artesia Blvd., Bellflower. It is managed by Section Chief **John Butler, Jr.** and his staff of three Supervisory District Adjudications Officers, 28 District Adjudications Officers, 12 Application Clerks and four Contract Clerical employees.

The Office was established in 1987 for the processing of Amnesty/Legalization Applications. In 1991 when the Amnesty Program was coming to a close, the office took on the processing of applications for applicants seeking Temporary Protective Status.

In July and September 1994, two off-site Citizenship Interview Pilot Programs were conducted. The project was highly successful with the concept of bringing naturalization interviews into the community. This was the birth of the Naturalization Outreach Program. Instrumental in the success of the program were former District Director, **Richard Rogers**, Asst. District Director of Adjudications, **Jane Arellano**, INS Officers, Prgm. Mgr. **John Butler**, Suprvsy Immigration Examiner **James McGill** and the Citizenship Coordinator, **Mario Muralles** of NALEO (National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed officials), a community based organization (CBO).

The outreach program began with (15) CBOs and eventually expanded to (43). The program is unique in that the CBOs pre-screen applicants to ensure that they meet the qualifications set forth by the Service. The CBOs also assist applicants in the completion of the N-400 applications and prepare them for the citizenship testing. L.A. is the only district that provides this type of service to the communities. Over the years, the Outreach Program has expanded to all seven counties under District Office jurisdiction.

On a daily basis, two teams comprising of (10) members each go into the field to conduct off-site interviews utilizing the Claims IV Program. The teams conduct approximately 1,000 interviews per week. These interviews are conducted with the assistance of lap-top computers wherein the entire interview, which comprises of a Verify/Re-verify/and Supervisory concurrence process is completed out in the field. Upon the team's return to the office, the cases are then Replicated/Reconciled into the INS computer systems. Those procedures are conducted on the same day the interviews are completed thereby enabling up-to-date case status verification by INS Offices nationwide.

The Bellflower Office also hosts a Homebound Program. This is a program wherein bed-ridden applicants are interviewed and fingerprinted at their homes. Officer **Reggie Bauwens** heads this program. He is responsible for setting up home visits for the bed-ridden to be interviewed and for coordinating with the mobile fingerprint unit to go out and take the prints. Once this process is completed, and there is a doctor's diagnosis and prognosis as to the inability to attend the courtroom oath-taking ceremony, the District Office arranges for an Immigration Judge to administer the oath. The homebound program covers seven counties

With the leadership of its Senior Officers, Bellflower also assists in the adjudication of N-600s,565s, 643s in addition to processing Denials and maintaining a Continued Cases Unit.

HOW TO REPORT "NOTARIO" FRAUD
(In the Greater L.A. area): Call our Investigations Branch, **213/633-6200**, M-F from 8 am-4 pm. Be prepared to give specific information to the intake worker.

CBO SPOTLIGHT ON "CATHOLIC CHARITIES, IMMIGRATION & REFUGEE DEPARTMENT,"

Archdiocese of Los Angeles *Editor's Note: This is the second profile highlighting outstanding CBOs and the services they provide to the immigrant community.*

Catholic Charities of L.A. Inc. formed its Immigration and Refugee Department in 1953 (CCLA/IRD) to serve the large number of immigrants and refugees who were resettling in the Archdiocese of L.A. Soon after its formation, CCLA/IRD worked closely with INS to provide immigration services in the L.A. area, and to educate the immigrant and refugee communities regarding their rights and benefits under the changing laws.

In late 1994, CCLA/IRD was one of the first community-based organizations to conduct outreach programs approved by the INS. In 1995, it worked in collaboration with Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. on "Citizenship USA." This program was funded by the U.S. Dept. of Justice. The goal was to provide assistance to the community in applying for naturalization. During this period, CCLA/IRD was a test site for the new N-400 2-D Bar Code. The agency has assisted approximately 6,000 naturalization applicants, by holding citizenship classes, brush-up sessions, and off-site interviews throughout L.A. County. CCLA has outreached to the underserved areas such as East L. A., South Central L. A., and Watts and is one of a few agencies serving ethnicities such as Cambodian, Lao, Hmong, Vietnamese, Thai, Korean, Chinese, Armenian, as well as eastern Europeans, middle easterners, and a large numbers of Hispanics. During this period, then INS Commissioner Doris Meissner visited CCLA/IRD to observe the 2-D Bar Code N-400 program operated by the agency. CCLA joined the Natz Advisory Committee and continues to be part of this since 1994. It is also part of the L. A. Citizenship Assistance Campaign Program, and participated with the homebound program to assist those who are bed-ridden to be able to apply for naturalization. Since starting the outreach program, CCLA has helped over 40,000 applicants become U.S. citizens.

CCLA's Immigration Department directors, **Nam Loc Nguyen** and **Jo Marcel Vu**, are community leaders. They have organized numerous community outreach meetings and workshops in collaboration with INS for the multi-ethnic communities in L.A. and Orange Counties. Loc hosts a weekly Radio & TV program and continually initiates cover stories related to immigration regulations, advocacy, voting registration, as well as community development. He has received many awards at the federal, state, and county levels and continues to offer constructive suggestions at the INS Naturalization Advisory Committee and Adjudication Information Forum monthly meetings.

RECENT STAFF CHANGES

Leonard Kovensky, from Deputy Dist. Dir. to Actg. Dist. Dir.; **Jane Arellano**, from Asst. Dist. Dir. for Adjudications to Actg. Deputy Dist. Dir.; **Olive Kerr**, from Deputy Asst. Dir./Adj. to Actg. Asst. Dist. Dir./Adj; **Kevin Jeffery**, from Supervisory Special Agent to Asst. Dist. Dir./INV; **Martha Nguyen**, from Supervisory DAO, 245 Unit, to Section Chief, I-130 Unit; **Mary Esther Johnson**, from Supervisory DAO, San Bernardino Sub-office to Section Chief, El Monte Citizenship Unit.

ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER.....

The Dispatch will be published on a quarterly basis by the Community Relations Department. Please address all **Letters To the Editor** and submit materials for to: INS-Los Angeles District Office, 300 No. Los Angeles St., Room 6676, Los Angeles, CA. 90012, Attn: Community Relations Officer
Credits: **Jane Arellano**, ADD/Adj; **John Butler, Jr.**, Supervisory District Adjudications Officer, Bellflower; **Al Mills**, Director of Public Services, District Public Affairs; HQ Public Affairs; Community Relations Department.

LIFE ACT-LATE LEGALIZATION (Cont'd from Pg.2)

and Nationality Act if the applicant is eligible for such relief but not under section 1104 of the LIFE Act.

The LIFE Act also provides that certain spouses and children of eligible applicants under the LIFE Legalization will be protected from removal and be eligible for employment authorization for the period of time in which they have been afforded Family Unity protection. Aliens who might benefit from the Family Unity provisions of the LIFE Act Amendments are those who: 1) Are currently in the U.S; 2) Are the spouse or unmarried child of an alien who is eligible for adjustment under LIFE Legalization; and 3) Entered the U.S. before 12/1/88, and were residing here on such date.

Eligible applicants must also demonstrate basic citizenship skills and be eligible for admission to the U.S. under the Immigration and Nationality Act. Life Legalization also provides for a stay of removal or deportation and work authorization for eligible applicants under this law while their adjustment applications are pending.

On 6/1/01, the Department of Justice published an interim rule in the Federal Register that implemented Section 1104 of the LIFE Act and the LIFE Act Amendments by establishing procedures for certain class action participants to become lawful permanent residents of the U.S. The interim rule provided a 1 year application period from 6/1/01 to 6/4/02 for those individuals applying for adjustment of status pursuant to section 1104 of the LIFE Act. The interim rule also provided for a stay of removal and work authorization for certain spouses and unmarried children of those aliens eligible to adjust status under Section 1104 of the LIFE Act.

More information regarding the final regulations of the LIFE Act legalization provisions can be obtained through the INS website www.ins.gov, the toll-free customer telephone service 1-800/375-5283, and public outreach to the media and community-based organizations. Forms can be easily downloaded from the website, or requested by calling **1-800/375-5283**. “Since immigration law can be very complex, individuals who have concerns about their eligibility for LIFE Act benefits should be cautious to avoid unscrupulous immigration practitioners. They should contact a licensed attorney or a legal service provider recognized by the Board of Immigration Appeals,” (BIA), urged Exec. Associate Commissioner for Immigration Services, **William Yates**.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENTS (Partial list)
<LIFE ACT>

- 4/22 City of Santa Clarita & Senior Citizens Division
- 5/6 EOC Health Services & Promotoras Comunitarias, Santa Maria, CA., Town Hall Meeting
- <CITIZENSHIP/NATURALIZATION>
- 4/27 El Rancho Unified School District, Parent Conference & Workshop Day, Pico Rivera, CA.
- 5/8 L.A. Unified Sch. Dist., Central Comm. Adult School, Citizenship Class, Central City/Downtown
- 5/29 L.A. Unified Sch. Dist., Bimini Community Adult School, Citizenship Class, Koreatown
- <EMPLOYER/I-9 TRAINING>
- 5/14 American Payroll Assoc, San Fernando
- 6/4 Society of Calif. Care Operators, Pasadena, CA.
- 7/3 Golden State Foods, City of Industry
- 7/25 Society of Calif. Care Operators, Los Angeles

<MIDDLE EASTERN & SOUTH ASIAN COMMUNITIES>

- 5/11 South Asian Network, Cerritos, CA.
- 6/1 Federation of Indo-American Associations of Southern California, Norwalk, CA.

NATZ ADVISORY COMMITTEE (Cont'd from Page 1)

regarding the program’s procedures. Participating organizations agreed not to advertise that their organization is able to offer a time advantage over applications mailed directly to the California Service Center. Organizations would be allowed to advertise their partnership with INS and the fact that interviews would be held in off-site locations. An after-action report would be provided after each off-site visit to give positive feedback and identify any deficiencies noted. Phone calls to Adjudications staff re: specific cases attempting to pre-clear some complex issues in advance of the payment will not be entertained in the future.

Prescreening of applicants would be accomplished by the Community Based Organization (CBO). The concept was to include only applicants who appeared to meet the basic qualifications for naturalization without any complex issues such as arrests or other disqualifying issues. Fingerprints, photographs and the N-400 application would be reviewed before submission to ensure that the items submitted met the proscribed specifications. This assistance would eliminate the rejection of applications thus speeding up the process.

Once the ground rules were established, interested participating organizations were asked to submit a letter to the INS. In order to participate in the program, each organization signed a Statement of Understanding to ensure that all of the requirements were clear. All organizations were cautioned not to engage in the unauthorized practice of law. This means that legal advice should only be provided by an attorney or an accredited representative who has been recognized by the Board of Immigration Appeals to act on behalf of an applicant before the INS.

Currently, CBOs still participating in off-site interviews are in constant communication with the Office. The interaction with the participating agencies includes periodic meetings to address issues of concern and for training purposes. CBOs that do not have attorneys or accredited representative may submit inquiries for applicants that they assisted but the inquires must be on separate sheets with the applicant’s signature affixed. The INS will respond to the applicant only in that instance unless the CBO is recognized to represent their clients. Without a signed Form G-28 on file, no information will be disclosed to a CBO or an attorney.

Today, NAC members meet on the 1st Wednesday of each month. Topics of general interest are discussed. The meeting is now conducted in an informational format rather than as a problem-solving group since so much interest has been shown by the large attendance at each meeting. Sub-committees are formed to address specific problems identified in the general NAC meetings. Questions concerning the processing of applications for naturalization handled by non-profit organizations, accredited reps. and approved CBOs are handled monthly

ROOM 1001 TO UNDERGO FACELIFT IN AUGUST

By mid- August, the Room 1001 Information Unit at 300 N. Los Angeles St. will undergo a much-needed facelift. This re-design and construction will take place over the next 12 to 14 months. During this time, there will **NO** reduction in the services that must be provided to our customers and the public in general. The District Management asks our customers to be patient during this time of renovation.

JOB SEARCHING???????

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