

# Visa Fee Changes

On September 12, 2014, the Department of State changed nonimmigrant and immigrant visa application fees for certain categories. All visa applicants must pay the fee amounts in effect on the day that they pay, with the exception of fees paid domestically to the National Visa Center (NVC), which will be effective on the date the invoice is sent. If the fee has decreased and you paid the fee prior to September 12, 2014, you will not be issued a refund.

For fee increases for nonimmigrant fees, visa fees paid will be accepted 90 days after the new fee goes into effect, as follows:

- If you paid the visa fee before September 12, 2014, and your visa interview is on or BEFORE December 11, 2014, you do not have to pay the difference between the old and new fee amounts.
- If you paid your visa fee before September 12, 2014, and your visa interview is on or AFTER December 12, 2014, you will be required to pay the difference between the old and new fee amounts.

Please note the following changes:

- Employment based: \$405 decreased to \$345
- Family-based: \$230 increased to \$325
- Affidavit of Support Review (when reviewed domestically): \$88 increased to \$120
- Other Immigrant Visa Applications (including approved I-360 self-petitioners, special immigrant visa applicants, and all others, except diversity visa program selectees): \$220 decreased to \$205

## USCIS Visa Bulletin

**NOVEMBER 2014**

The visa bulletin is a monthly notice issued by the State Department which lists the availability of visa numbers during the month of publication. It is used as a guide to determine whether a visa is available for certain immigrants, depending on visa category and country of origin. When an immigrant petition is filed, the petition is assigned a "priority date", which is usually the date the application is filed. This date is used to determine the petition's place in line, since visa availability is limited. Below is the current visa bulletin for November of 2014:

First: (F1) Unmarried Sons and Daughters of U.S. Citizens

Second: Spouses and Children, and Unmarried Sons and Daughters of Permanent Residents

A. (F2A) Spouses and Children of Permanent Residents

B. (F2B) Unmarried Sons and Daughters (21 years of age or older) of Permanent Residents

Third: (F3) Married Sons and Daughters of U.S. Citizens

Fourth: (F4) Brothers and Sisters of Adult U.S. Citizens

| Family-Sponsored | All Chargeability Areas Except Those Listed | CHINA-mainland born | INDIA   | MEXICO  | PHILIPPINES |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------|---------|-------------|
| F1               | 08JUN07                                     | 08JUN07             | 08JUN07 | 22JUN94 | 01NOV04     |
| F2A              | 01MAR13                                     | 01MAR13             | 01MAR13 | 22SEP12 | 01MAR13     |
| F2B              | 01JAN08                                     | 01JAN08             | 01JAN08 | 08SEP94 | 01JAN04     |
| F3               | 08DEC03                                     | 08DEC03             | 08DEC03 | 01NOV93 | 08JUN93     |
| F4               | 08FEB02                                     | 08FEB02             | 08FEB02 | 15FEB97 | 01MAY91     |

# BARTEN LAW Newsletter

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## NOVEMBER 3RD DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS FOR DIVERSITY VISA LOTTERY FOR DV 2016

Online registration for the DV 2016 program began on Wednesday, October 1, 2014 at 12:00 noon, EDT, and will terminate on Monday, November 3, 2014 at 12:00 noon EDT. The program is applicable to "diversity immigrants" or immigrants from countries with low rates of immigration to the United States.

For fiscal year 2016, 50,000 diversity visas will be available, and recipients are selected randomly. In order to qualify, you must demonstrate that you meet the education or work experience requirements. Diversity Visa applicants must have a high school education or equivalent, or two years of work experience within the past five years in an occupation requiring at least two years' training or experience. The occupation must be designated as Job Zone 4 or 5 with an SVP (Specific Vocational Preparation) range of 7.0 or above. See INA Section 203(c). For a list a countries whose natives are eligible please see our website at: [www.immigrationiowa.com](http://www.immigrationiowa.com)



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**Newsletter**  
Published for the Community



## OUR ATTORNEYS



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“At Barten Law, we understand that your immigration needs are important to you and your family. You deserve the highest quality representation and legal advice in all areas of immigration law.”

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## Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) Recipients Allowed to Apply for the U.S. Military

The Pentagon announced that DACA recipients will now be allowed to apply to serve in the U.S. military as part of the Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest (“MANVI”) program. Typically in order to serve in the U.S. military, recruits needed to have lawful permanent residency (“green card”) status. The MANVI program allows temporary immigrants on student visas or work visas to join the military. Until the announcement by the Pentagon on September 25, 2014, DACA recipients were prevented from applying for U.S. military service.

So far the U.S. Army has been the only branch of service to accept MANVI recruits. The criteria for acceptance are more rigorous, often requiring specialized language skills or medical training. Those who enter the program can apply for citizenship after completing basic training and just months after enlisting. Further details on the program will be announced.

## Mexican Consulate Pays Costs for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) Applicants

In an article published on September 30, 2014, on National Public Radio, it was cited that 45% of young immigrants eligible for DACA have not applied. The attorney fee plus the \$465 government filing fee may be overwhelming to potential applicants. According to an interview with Julian Escutia, head of the Mexican Consular Coordination and Hispanic Affairs Section, financial assistance is based upon need and is determined on a “case-by-case basis.”

## Department of Homeland Security Agrees to Give Oral and Written Information about the Right to an Immigration Hearing

The American Civil Liberties Union (“ACLU”) filed a lawsuit for nine Mexican immigrants who were picked up at bus stops or walking across a parking lot, or questioned during a traffic stop against the Department of Homeland Security. The nine immigrants argued that they were coerced or pressured into signing documents agreeing to be deported without full information of the consequences or the right to hearing. The Department of Homeland Security agreed to settle the lawsuit.

The government agrees that they now will give oral and written advisals of the right to a hearing before a judge and all the consequences of voluntary departure. The government has agreed to set up a 1-800 phone number hotline. Further, the government provide a list of legal service providers, allow immigrants to make phone calls for assistance on making critical decisions if stopped by Border Agents or ICE Agents.

## The Eyecaner Foundation Pushing 1000 Kids For Iowa

More than 50,000 minor children have turned themselves into U.S. border agents and requested the protection of the U.S. government. Most of the children are being housed in jail-like facilities which some argue are ill-equipped to handle the special needs of these children. In response, The Eyecaner Foundation in Des Moines announced it will be coordinating to bring 1000 refugee children for placement with families in Iowa. The Foundation is requesting help with any of the following: (1) housing for children, (2) support services, (3) food, (4) translation assistance, (5) volunteering, (6) clothing, (7) medical assistance, (8) financial support, and (9) educational support. The Foundation reports that so far 282 homes have been identified. The website to become involved is listed here:

<https://www.eychanerfoundation.org/>

## Guatemalan Woman is Eligible for Asylum Based on Domestic Abuse

On August 26, 2014, the Board of Immigration Appeals issued its decision in Matter of A-R-C-G- et al., Respondents, 26 I&N Dec. 388 (BIA 2014), holding that a Guatemalan Woman, Aminta Cifuentes, was eligible for asylum based on domestic violence. In order to qualify for asylum, an applicant must show that she has suffered persecution or have a well-founded fear they will suffer persecution upon return to her country on account of her race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. In this case, Cifuentes argued that she was part of a social group of “married women in Guatemala who are unable to leave their relationship”.

Cifuentes was subjected to abuse on a weekly basis by her husband in Guatemala, and the Guatemalan police did not come to her aid when she reported the beatings because they did not want to interfere in the relationship. Because of the abuse, Cifuentes was forced to flee to the United States for safety. This landmark decision opens the door for woman facing abuse in their home countries to seek refuge here in the United States. If an applicant wins their asylum claim, they are eligible to apply for permanent residency once they have been physically present in the United States for one year after having been granted asylum. In addition, applicants are eligible to receive employment authorization.

## CASE EVALUATION

Attorneys at Barten Law offer a full range of immigration services and advice to individuals, and companies large and small. We offer a FULL immigration case review and are available to answer your immigration questions. Call our office today!



## Client Testimonials

Thank you to All for helping me achieve my U.S. Citizenship!

Manie N. – Clarion, Iowa

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