



FY-2015 H-1B LOTTERY APPLIED TO 172,500 PETITIONS

On April 10, 2014, U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services (CIS) announced that the CIS had conducted the FY-2015 H-1B "lottery" on April 7th, after having received approximately 172,500 new H-1B petitions during the week of April 1st through April 7th. CIS has confirmed that a lottery was first applied to Master's cap petitions in order to select the 20,000 cap-exempt petitions filed on behalf of individuals who hold a Master's or higher degree from a U.S. institution of higher education. Those Master's cap cases that were not selected in the initial Master's cap lottery were then entered into the lottery for selection of petitions under the Regular 65,000 H-1B cap.

CIS will notify petitioners soon, by either return of a rejected H-1B petition along with applicable filing fee checks, or by issuance of a Form I-797 Notice of Action/Receipt Notice acknowledging receipt and payment of applicable fees for the petition. CIS recently confirmed that they will begin their review of H-1B cap cases filed under "premium processing" on April 28th, meaning that the 15 day adjudication period will begin on this date for "premium processing" cases. However, petitioners who did not file under "premium processing" should not yet assume that the petition was not selected in the lottery if they do not receive a Receipt Notice within the next several weeks.

FosterQuan will continue to monitor developments in connection with the H-1B visa program, including proposed legislation that would increase the annual H-1B quota. Future updates will be made available in FosterQuan Immigration Updates® and on our firm's website at www.fosterquan.com.