

October 19, 2011



This Immigration Update<sup>©</sup> from FosterQuan, LLP contains important information regarding the following:

## DHS EXTENDS TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS (TPS) FOR SUDAN AND ANNOUNCES NEW TPS FOR SOUTH SUDAN

On Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security designated nationals of the recently independent Republic of South Sudan eligible for Temporary Protected Status (TPS), with a <u>South Sudan TPS</u> designation date of November 3, 2011. The DHS has also <u>extended TPS</u> for the Republic of Sudan until May 2, 2013, and announced the automatic extension through May 2, 2012, of employment authorization documents issued under the last Sudan TPS extension. The TPS registration period for eligible nationals of Sudan and South Sudan began October 13, 2011, and will end April 10, 2012. New TPS employment authorization documents for Sudanese and South Sudanese should be issued with an expiration of May 2, 2013.

This TPS extension is unique because South Sudan became a new nation on July 9, 2011. Previously, it was a part of the Republic of Sudan which is currently designated for TPS and has been since 1997. As a result, there are individuals who were Sudanese and are now South Sudanese. Until April 10, 2012, which is the close of the registration period, all persons holding valid Sudanese employment authorization documents are eligible for the TPS extension.

All qualifying Sudanese and South Sudanese are eligible to remain in the United States and obtain employment authorization. The registration process will vary slightly depending on one's age, whether the individual is applying for employment authorization, and whether he or she is currently a TPS beneficiary under the Sudan designation.

For assistance related to TPS registration or re-registration issues, or regarding the Form I-9 employment eligibility verification process for employees claiming TPS, please contact a FosterQuan attorney. As always, FosterQuan will continue to monitor TPS designations and extensions and will provide additional information via our firm's <u>website</u> and future **Immigration Updates**<sup>©</sup> as appropriate.