



EMAIL BULLETIN

**U.S. CITIZENSHIP & IMMIGRATION SERVICES (CIS) EXPANDS ITS PREMIUM PROCESSING SERVICE TO INCLUDE ALIEN OF EXTRAORDINARY ABILITY IMMIGRANT VISA PETITIONS**

*30 November 2006*

On November 13, 2006, U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services (CIS) began accepting requests for premium processing of Immigrant Visa Petitions filed under the Employment-Based, First Preference (EB-1A) Alien of Extraordinary Ability immigrant visa category. The premium processing service requires payment of an additional \$1,000 government filing fee in order to obtain action on the petition within 15 calendar days.

The Alien of Extraordinary Ability category is exempt from the lengthier labor certification process, and affords most beneficiaries the ability to immediately apply for Adjustment of Status (“green card”) at a time when the Employment-Based, Second Preference (EB-2) and Employment-Based, Third Preference (EB-3) categories are experiencing varying degrees of availability backlogs.

The EB-1A Alien of Extraordinary Ability category was designed for those who have reached the top of their field of endeavor and requires documentation of sustained national or international acclaim for achievements in the field. While the process of document collection can seem daunting, the benefits of the EB-1A category are significant. Applicants approved for this category may forgo the labor certification process that requires a test of the labor market for qualified U.S. workers and can obtain U.S. Lawful Permanent Residency much more rapidly in most cases. Individuals with patents, scholarly publications, national or international awards, and/or careers involving significant service and contributions in their field of endeavor are considered the best candidates for this elite classification.

Individuals with petitions under the EB-1A category already pending with U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services may also apply for premium processing. To request premium processing for a pending petition, or to initiate a new case under the EB-1A Alien of Extraordinary Ability category, contact your Tindall & Foster, P.C. immigration attorney. Your Tindall & Foster immigration attorney will be able to provide valuable input into the assessment of a candidate’s credentials for filing a petition under the EB-1A category, prepare the necessary petition and substantial supporting documentation, and ensure that proper application is made to secure 15-day action by the CIS on a new or pending petition.