



Monday, December 10, 2007

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS) AND FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (FBI) REPORT JOINT EFFORT TO REDUCE BACKLOGS AND DELAYS IN FBI BACKGROUND CHECKS REQUIRED FOR APPLICATIONS FOR NATURALIZATION AND ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS

On December 3, 2007, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) notified the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) of a joint effort to reduce delays in adjudication of Applications for Naturalization and Applications for Adjustment of Status caused by backlogs and delays in the clearance of FBI background checks required of each applicant.

DHS Secretary Chertoff reportedly indicated that certain risk assessment portions of the name check process will undergo change, and that additional resource allocation should enable reduction of a significant percentage of the existing backlog by the end of the year, and the majority of the backlog within six months.

Recently many Adjustment of Status applicants whose Applications have remained pending for more than one year due to delays in background checks have been notified that their Applications have been approved, an initial indication that the joint DHS and FBI efforts are already having a beneficial impact on backlog reduction in the name check process.

As always, Tindall & Foster, P.C. will continue to monitor developments in connection with delays in FBI Background and other Security Checks and will make relevant information available via future Email Bulletins and on the [Tindall & Foster, P.C. web site](#).