

October 2, 2015

Registration for Diversity Via (Green Card) Lottery Now Open

The Department of State has announced the opening of the registration period for the 2017 Diversity Visa (DV) lottery. As in past years, the DV lottery will allow a maximum of 50,000 "diversity immigrants" to obtain permanent residence in the United States if they are from countries with low rates of immigration to the United States. Entries for the DV-2017 lottery must be submitted electronically between noon Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) on Thursday, October 1, 2015, and noon Eastern Standard Time (EST) on Tuesday, November 3, 2015. Applicants may access the electronic Diversity Visa entry form (E-DV) at <http://www.dvlottery.state.gov> during the registration period. Paper entries are not accepted.

The DV lottery is administered on an annual basis by the Department of State. As in past years, for FY-2017 natives of the following countries remain ineligible to apply for the DV lottery because the countries sent a total of more than 50,000 immigrants to the United States in the previous five years: Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, China (mainland-born), Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Haiti, India, Jamaica, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, South Korea, United Kingdom (except Northern Ireland) and its dependent territories, and Vietnam. Persons born in Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan remain eligible. Instructions for entering the DV-2017 diversity lottery are available at the [U.S. Department of State website](#).

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The Business Immigration Group

With the globalization of the U.S. economy, companies have an increasing need to bring talented foreign national executives, managers and professionals to the United States. But these needs are often challenged by restrictive immigration laws and policies. As a result, the field of business immigration law has taken on increasing importance. Our internationally recognized Business Immigration Group meets the requirements of leading companies and other organizations operating in the United States, particularly multi-national companies with locations throughout the world.

We represent corporate clients in all phases of the hiring and transfer of foreign nationals -- executives, managers, professionals, investors, and performing artists -- to the U.S. We also represent individuals, who, because of their extraordinary ability in their fields or because of their substantial investments in the United States, do not require corporate sponsorship to immigrate.

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If you have any questions or need additional information about this alert, please feel free to contact the authors below or any one of your Kramer Levin attorney contacts:

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This memorandum provides general information on legal issues and developments of interest to our clients and friends. It is not intended to provide legal advice. Readers should seek specific legal advice before taking any action with respect to the matters we discuss here. Should you have any questions or wish to discuss any of the issues raised in this memorandum, please call your Kramer Levin contact.

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