

MAY 17, 2018 BULLETIN TO ALL IMMIGRATION CLIENTS

USCIS Announces Data Entry of FY 2019 H-1B Visa Cap Lottery is Complete

On May 15, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced that it **has completed the data entry of all FY 2019 H-1B cap-subject petitions selected in the computer-generated random process** (both for the “master’s cap” and the “regular cap” petitions). For cap-subject petitions not randomly selected in the lottery, USCIS will reject and return the petition with filing fees. Due to the high volume of filings, USCIS is unable to provide a definite time frame for returning these petitions but will issue an announcement once all the unselected petitions have been returned.

USCIS will now adjudicate the 85,000 cases selected in the FY 2019 cap lottery, which is expected to continue for the next several months. USCIS may transfer some H-1B cap petitions between its California and Vermont Service Centers to balance workload. If a case is transferred, USCIS will issue a notice to the petitioner and immigration counsel. Premium processing remains unavailable for H-1B cap cases.

The Cohen & Grigsby Immigration Department will continue to keep you updated as to the status of your respective FY 2019 H-1B cap cases. Please remember that there may be other visa alternatives to filing an H-1B petition. As we have done in the past when a case is not selected in the cap, we will work with you to identify any alternatives that will permit the affected employee to legally remain employed or begin employment in the United States.

Please contact any member of the Cohen & Grigsby Immigration Department if you have any questions regarding the above at 412.297.4900. To receive future bulletins and news alerts, please send an e-mail to bulletin@cohenlaw.com.

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