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EXTRAORDINARY

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SURGED BY 21%**

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PRINCIPAL ATTORNEY ARTICLES

CHINESE PERMANENT RESIDENCY IN THE US SURGED BY 21%

The history of the United States is intricately intertwined with immigration from various parts of the world in search of new opportunities and a better future. Among the immigrant groups that played a significant role in the country's construction and development, Chinese immigrants have a rich and impactful history dating back to the early 19th century.

The Chinese immigration movement to the US officially began in 1820, when the first Chinese immigrants arrived on the American West Coast. Despite facing challenges and discrimination, these pioneers contributed to infrastructure building, such as railways and mining, playing a pivotal role in the region's economic development. However, it wasn't until 1868, with the signing of the Burlingame Treaty, that Chinese immigration began to be officially recognized and regulated.

A significant milestone in Chinese immigration history was achieving American permanent residency, also known as a "green card." During the 1970s, specifically from 1970 to 1979, there was a peak in granting green cards to Chinese immigrants, totaling an impressive 707,314 issued documents, according to data from the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) analyzed by Risch Law Firm.

This period was marked by a wave of Chinese immigrants seeking educational, economic, and political opportunities in the United States.

The history of Chinese immigration was also marked by challenges and obstacles, including exclusion laws and discriminatory policies.



After the onset of the global pandemic, immigration worldwide was affected, including Chinese immigration to the United States. However, as restrictions began to ease, there was a resurgence in the number of Chinese permanent residents in the US. In 2020, despite difficulties, 39,642 green cards were issued to Chinese immigrants, a sign of resilience and determination in the face of adversity.

The numbers continued to grow in 2021, with 48,072 green cards issued to Chinese immigrants. While the fiscal year from 2022 to 2023 has not yet been consolidated, trends indicate ongoing growth in granting permanent residency to this community.

Over the past two years, the granting of permanent residency to Chinese immigrants has grown by about 21%. This not only reflects the determination of these individuals to seek better opportunities in the United States but also underscores the ongoing importance of Chinese immigrants in the country's cultural diversity, economy, and social development.

AMERICAN NATURALIZATION IN NUMBERS

China ranks third in this process, with 29,227 people acquiring American citizenship. Topping the list, the Philippines lead with 48,478 naturalizations, followed by Cuba with 47,919. Brazil ranks 11th, with 12,448 individuals choosing to become US citizens. In the last fiscal year, the US government recorded 813,861 immigrants becoming citizens of the United States.

Written by **MIGUEL RISCH** - Brazilian and American lawyer, master's degree in International Law from the University of Miami, and founder of Risch Law Firm in the United States.

BIPARTISAN POLITICIANS ARE PRESSURING THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO UNLOCK GREEN CARDS



WASHINGTON, DC - More than 50 lawmakers from both sides of the aisle are urging the Biden administration to expedite the process for thousands of applicants stuck in green card backlogs, granting them the opportunity to apply for permanent residency much earlier than they currently can.

In a letter issued on Friday, 58 House members emphasized that allowing all immigrants with an approved employment-based immigrant petition to file their applications as soon as the new fiscal year commences would ensure the utilization of all available green cards each year.

While an earlier application date wouldn't guarantee an expedited path to permanent residency, it would provide these immigrants with interim relief, such as increased flexibility for employment and travel outside the United States during their wait for green cards.

Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-Ill.), a key signatory of the letter, stated that bureaucratic delays in the legal immigration system not only hinder the economy but also leave many families in a state of uncertainty. The lawmakers suggested that the Administration could alleviate this burden and simultaneously bolster the economy and job creation by utilizing its existing authority under the law.

Currently, employment-based green cards are limited to 140,000 slots per year, not accounting for additional visas that become available due to unused family-based visas from the previous year. Moreover, there are additional restrictions that cap the percentage of green cards allotted based on the applicant's country of origin. Consequently, immigrants from high-volume countries like India would still face significant waiting periods even if the change proposed by the lawmakers were to be implemented.

The State Department informs immigrants of their eligibility to apply for a green card through a monthly publication known as the Visa Bulletin. Eligibility dates are determined by the date an immigrant petition was filed and an estimation of available visas, a process carried out jointly by the State Department and the Department of Homeland Security.



Written by **FERNANDO HESSEL**, Strategic communication executive, journalist, MBA in New Business Management, Chief Observer at The White House and The Pentagon

EXPANSION

USCIS REINITIATES OPERATIONS IN HAVANA, CUBA ONCE MORE

WASHINGTON, DC - U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will reopen an international field office in Havana, Cuba. The new office will assist with U.S. immigration casework and benefits, including interviews and processing pending Cuban Family Reunification Parole cases and Form I-730, Refugee/Asylee Relative Petition.

The USCIS Havana Field Office will also provide other limited services, which may include refugee processing and collecting biometrics for U visa petitions. Services at the Havana Field Office will be available only by appointment.

"Our re-established presence in Cuba is a component of our initiative to reinstate USCIS' global outreach beyond the borders of the United States. These endeavors align with the dedication of the Biden-Harris Administration to promote secure, lawful, and organized migration while discouraging risky and perilous maritime migration," stated a representative from USCIS.



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DHS ISSUES GUIDANCE FOR STATELESS NONCITIZENS IN THE UNITED STATES



WASHINGTON, DC - The Department of Homeland Security (DHS), through U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), today issued new guidance to assist stateless noncitizens in the United States who wish to obtain immigration benefits or have submitted other requests to USCIS. Stateless individuals are those who are not legally considered a citizen of any country and therefore may be denied legal identity, and struggle to access education, healthcare, marriage, and job opportunities.

Individuals can be born stateless or become stateless because of discrimination, war, conflict, or changing borders and laws. The new guidance clarifies when and how USCIS may consider a noncitizen stateless for the purpose of adjudicating immigration benefits or other requests.

“All over the world, people who are stateless live with fear and uncertainty. DHS is fully committed to addressing the global issue of statelessness and to breaking down barriers that these individuals face in the United States,” said Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro N. Mayorkas. “With this historic step, stateless individuals will be given the opportunity to apply for immigration protections and benefits for which they are eligible.”

Following today’s release of this guidance, and with the goal of helping stateless individuals to take advantage of the opportunity, USCIS will create and implement new procedures to assist USCIS officers when assessing an individual’s potential statelessness.

Source: USCIS

THE STAR CARMEN MIRANDA: A BRILLIANT CAREER WITH A WORK VISA IN THE USA

THE WHITE HOUSE - The story of Carmen Miranda in the United States is an inspiring testament to determination, talent, and the capacity of a Brazilian woman to capture the heart of a foreign nation. Born in Portugal and raised in Rio de Janeiro, Carmen set forth to the United States during the 1940s, driven by aspirations in the global artistic arena. Her journey through the "land of opportunities" was characterized by immigration challenges, yet her musical passion and Brazilian pride propelled her beyond adversities.

Arriving in the United States amid prevailing immigration restrictions, Carmen Miranda faced a nation emerging from the Great Depression and grappling with global tensions arising from World War II. Nevertheless, her infectious energy and undeniable talent distinguished her within Hollywood's artistic landscape. Rapidly, she became renowned for her vibrant performances and flamboyant ensembles, which seamlessly blended elements of Brazilian and Latin American culture.

Despite her burgeoning acclaim, Carmen Miranda also grappled with issues tied to her immigration status. Operating within the confines of a limited work permit, she occasionally wrestled to renew her visa. These challenges compelled her to navigate bureaucratic hurdles and the uncertain terrain familiar to many immigrants in the United States. Nevertheless, she steadfastly refused to let these obstacles deter her pursuit of passion and the representation of Brazil with unyielding pride.

Manifest in all her endeavors was Carmen Miranda's steadfast pride in her Brazilian heritage. Uncompromisingly, she infused her performances with authenticity and exuberance, remaining true to her cultural roots. Her music resonated with audiences, and her stage presence was nothing short of electrifying. Endowed with charisma, she figuratively waved the Brazilian flag, transforming herself into an icon for the multitude of Brazilians striving to find a niche in a foreign land.



Moreover, Carmen Miranda's influence extended to the annals of American pop culture. She introduced the rhythms of samba and bossa nova to the global stage, leaving an indelible mark on musicians and artists far beyond national borders. Her signature turbans and kaleidoscopic costumes etched an enduring imprint on the realm of fashion and the collective imagination.

The narrative of Carmen Miranda in the United States transcends her personal journey—it encapsulates the ability of a Brazilian woman to excel within a competitive country. She confronted obstacles, defied stereotypes, and evolved into a cultural envoy who thrust Brazil into the global spotlight. Her story endures as an inspiration to generations of immigrants and artists who strive for success abroad while upholding their roots with unwavering pride.

Moreover, Carmen Miranda graced the White House during President Franklin D. Roosevelt's tenure. On February 17, 1941, she participated in "Brazil Day," a commemoration orchestrated by the US government to foster cultural and diplomatic bonds between the two nations. On that occasion, Carmen Miranda and her ensemble serenaded an audience that comprised President Roosevelt, the esteemed First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, and other notable dignitaries.

ENTREPRENEUR PATHWAYS TO AMERICA: EB-1A VISA

The American Dream is legendary

WESTON, FL — For generations, this Dream has drawn the best and brightest from the world over, and today over 45 million immigrants call the United States their home - more than any other nation on the planet, by far.

This “Land of Opportunity” is coveted for its freedoms, its wealth, and the launching pad it provides for visionaries to bring their dreams to life – a bountiful sandbox for grand designs and awe-inspiring wonders. The Stars and Stripes is a global beacon for all those who dare to believe in themselves, those willing to risk it all and put their ambitions to the test by building, creating, and innovating for the betterment of this nation, and humanity as a whole.

Many of those immigrants who dare to dream are Entrepreneurs, inspiring pioneers of business who live and dream on the cutting edge, whose vast imaginations and boundless ambitions push the limits of what is possible. For these enterprising individuals, the United States provides several unique paths to immigration.

At Risch Law Firm, we have helped so many Entrepreneurs achieve their American Dream, and are excited help even more global innovators through the United States immigration process. In this series, we shall discuss the various approaches to American residency that are available to Entrepreneurs.

The Entrepreneur’s Gateway to Opportunity

The process of immigrating to the United States as an Entrepreneur is unique. United States Citizen and Immigration Services (USCIS) recognizes the special nature of Entrepreneurs, such that USCIS guidelines provide specific guidance for Entrepreneurs seeking residency in the United States.

Entrepreneurs seeking employment-based immigration to the United States have several different pathways to obtaining a green card (permanent resident card). Each category applies to different types of candidates with different evidentiary requirements for approval. In this edition, we shall explain the EB1-A – Extraordinary Ability Visa.

EB1-A - Extraordinary Ability

This visa is for the best of the best professionals with extraordinary ability in the sciences, arts, education, business, or athletics. We demonstrate this extraordinary ability with proof of sustained national or international acclaim and recognized achievements in the field of expertise. In addition, we must prove the applicant will continue working in their area of extraordinary ability, and that their work will substantially benefit the United States in the future.

“Extraordinary Ability” means a level of expertise proving the candidate is one of the small percentage of individuals who have risen to the very top of their field. With this visa, the candidate can self-petition as an extraordinary ability individual, because a job offer is not required for this classification.

For Entrepreneurs with extraordinary ability, EB1-A is a complex, rigorous process reserved for the most accomplished and successful business professionals.

At Risch Law Firm, our special expertise and experience with EB1-A provides extraordinary Entrepreneurs with the expert advocacy and guidance necessary for bringing their immense talents to the United States. We present the best possible case for approval with painstaking attention to detail, presenting every facet of the candidates’ accomplishments and demonstrating their extreme value to the United States.



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