

September 3, 2002

DOS ANNOUNCES SIGNIFICANT DELAYS IN VISA ISSUANCE AT U.S. CONSULATES

Citing security concerns after September 11, 2001, the Department of State (DOS) has warned applicants for visas at U.S. consulates abroad to expect processing delays of six to eight weeks or more. In its notice, DOS states that Congress has mandated heightened scrutiny standards, which require consular officers to review additional application forms and perform additional security measures. The notice states that DOS recognizes the delays may impose hardship on many legitimate travelers, particularly foreign students. We will continue to monitor the extent to which the security procedures affect applicants for H-1B, L-1 and other nonimmigrant visas.

We advise that your employees plan accordingly when making travel arrangements that require issuance of visas abroad. Please contact any of the attorneys in the Sidley Austin Brown & Wood Immigration Practice if you have any questions.

THE IMMIGRATION PRACTICE OF SIDLEY AUSTIN BROWN & WOOD

Our Immigration practice area develops a comprehensive and cost effective strategy to address the unique immigration needs of each client. The legal services we offer include assistance in obtaining temporary visas, permanent residence and U.S. citizenship. We also provide employees with immigration advice related to mergers and acquisitions, corporate law, international tax, I-9 compliance and other labor issues affecting the employment of foreign nationals. We routinely represent clients before the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, Department of Labor, Department of State and U.S. consular posts worldwide.

For further information concerning any of the items described in this update, please contact any of the attorneys in our Immigration Group:

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To include an employee on the mailing list for future copies of the Immigration Update, please send the person's name, company name and email address to Diane Olsen at dolsen@sidley.com.