

IMMIGRATION SENTINEL

December 2024



Jennifer Cory, Partner

December 2024 Visa Bulletin

The U.S. Department of State [December 2024 Visa Bulletin](#) reflects no priority date advancement from November in the employment-based dates for filing although there was some movement in the India second, third, and other worker categories final action dates.

Lebanon TPS Designation

The [U.S. Department of Homeland Security \(DHS\)](#) has designated Lebanon for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for 18 months, from 11/27/24 to 05/27/26. This designation applies to Lebanese nationals (and those without nationality who last resided in Lebanon) who have continuously resided in the U.S. since 10/16/24 and have been continuously physically present in the U.S. since 11/27/24.

Welcome to the inaugural issue of our monthly newsletter, *The Immigration Sentinel*. As we monitor immigration benefits and compliance developments, we hope that this medium will be a valuable resource in helping you stay informed and prepared for potential changes that may impact you corporately and individually.

Repatriation Flights

DHS conducted its third large-frame charter removal flight to China in less than 6 months. [DHS reports](#) that the Chinese nationals removed had no lawful basis to remain in the U.S. DHS stated that since President Biden's 6/5/24 Proclamation, DHS has operated 640+ repatriation flights to 155+ countries, more individuals in FY2024 than any year since FY2010.



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Please contact us at CoryImmigrationTeam@FisherBroyles.com or 1.833.4FB.VISA with questions. We stand ready to support!

Belize Added to H-2A & H-2B Programs

Belize nationals are now eligible to participate in the H-2A and H-2B nonimmigrant worker programs. The designation is effective through November 8, 2025.

Denaturalization & Removal Warning for U.S. Citizens

The Second Circuit Court of Appeals held in an en banc decision that criminal defense counsel has a sixth amendment obligation to inform a naturalized U.S. citizen client that his/her guilty plea carries a risk of serious adverse immigration consequences—specifically, denaturalization and removal.

PERM Online System Decommissioned

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) legacy Permanent Online System was fully decommissioned as of December 1, 2024. Applicants are directed to submit applications through the replacement Foreign Labor Application Gateway (FLAG) System. Applications still pending in the legacy System will continue to be processed, but applicants will need to contact the Permanent Labor Certification Help Desk at plc.atlanta@dol.gov for further support.

Naturalization Policy Update

U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS) has updated its policy to reflect that naturalization applicants need only demonstrate lawful admission for permanent residence at their initial entry or adjustment of status, not for subsequent reentries. USCIS policy is now aligned with a recent Fourth Circuit ruling on this topic.

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