

## ***Immigration-related Resources***

### **Section 1: Coming to the U.S. to live and work**

#### ***U.S. Department of Justice:***

<http://www.usdoj.gov/02organizations/>

The Department of Justice (DOJ) states that its mission includes enforcing laws and maintaining public safety, and ensuring justice for all Americans. The Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR, <http://www.usdoj.gov/eoir/>) oversees immigration courts and cases. Resources on the EOIR Web site include a listing of immigration courts nationwide, and a Pro Bono program that connects visitors with reliable legal assistance. The EOIR also oversees the Board of Immigration Appeals or BIA (<http://www.usdoj.gov/eoir/biainfo.htm>), which represents the highest legal authority relating to immigration cases, hears appeals, and renders final judgments.

#### ***U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services***

<http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis>

Many of the former functions of the Immigration and Naturalization Services are now administered through USCIS. Visitors to their site will find information on their offices nationwide, application processes and forms, and an Education and Resources section that includes a helpful section of “Resources for New Immigrants.” Also, click the “Services and Benefits” button, and then “How do I?” consumer guides for thorough information on topics such as becoming a Legal Permanent Resident (LPR).

#### ***Department of Homeland Security***

<http://www.dhs.gov/index.shtm>

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) aims to secure the United States and keep every citizen safe from threat. As part of its mission, the DHS enforces current immigration laws. In addition to enforcement, the “Immigration” section of their Website (<http://www.dhs.gov/ximgtn/>) provides information on entering the country legally, filing for residency or citizenship, forms, etc. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is also administered through DHS. Their site provides news on current enforcement efforts and each of its operations (<http://www.ice.gov/>).

#### ***Bureau of Consular Affairs***

<http://travel.state.gov/>

**Source:** *U.S. Department of State*

This site serves all travelers, whether U.S. citizens traveling outside the U.S., or visitors to the U.S. The Visas section ([http://travel.state.gov/visa/visa\\_1750.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/visa_1750.html)) is targeted specifically for foreign visitors to the U.S. On it, you can find information about applying for Visas, Visa news, etc.

## Section 2: Visas and becoming a legal permanent resident

### ***Visa Bulletin***

[http://travel.state.gov/visa/frvi/bulletin/bulletin\\_1360.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/frvi/bulletin/bulletin_1360.html)

**Source:** *U.S. Department of State Bureau of Consular Affairs*

The Visa Bulletin is an important monthly publication that “offers valuable information about immigration” mostly letting visa applicants know when a visa is available for their particular “immigration category,” which allows them to apply to adjust their immigration status, whether it be an employment-based or a family-based petition. Available numbers of visas and “priority dates” are constantly being updated. The site also contains information about visas—what are they, how to apply for them, who’s eligible, etc.

### ***Immigration Publications***

<http://www.cliniclegal.org/Publications.html>

**Source:** *Catholic Legal Immigration Network*

These resources include guides/handbooks, articles, reports, and flyers all related to immigration topics. The flyers are available in both English and Spanish (<http://www.cliniclegal.org/Publications/Fliers.html>) and cover topics such as lawful permanent residency, family based immigration, etc. Finally, the Clinic also features a Pro Bono BIA-accredited project for legal immigration assistance (<http://www.cliniclegal.org/ProBono.html>).

### ***Obtaining Lawful Permanent Resident Status***

<http://www.nilc.org/immlawpolicy/obtainlpr/index.htm>

**Source:** *National Immigration Law Center*

Service providers may keep up with current events in regards to immigration and lawful permanent residency status, with issue briefs, news, proposed legislation and current cases, as well as links to Immigration agencies that administer these services.

### ***Recognition and Accreditation Roster***

<http://www.usdoj.gov/eoir/statspub/raroster.htm>

**Source:** *U.S. Department of Justice/Executive Office for Immigration Review*

This extremely helpful resource is updated every quarter, and allows visitors to search for either BIA accredited organizations or accredited individuals. These records can also be searched on a statewide basis. These pages also give resources for reliable, Pro Bono immigration assistance (<http://www.usdoj.gov/eoir/probono/probonoassist.htm>).

***Campaign to Protect Immigrants from Notary (Notario) Fraud***

<http://www.abanet.org/publicserv/immigration/anfc.html>

**Source:** *American Bar Association*

This campaign works to help protect immigrants from falling prey to scams for legal-related immigration assistance. On the site, there are education resources in English and Spanish, information on relevant laws, etc. The ABA also sponsors Pro Bono Services for immigration-related cases

(<http://www.abanet.org/publicserv/immigration/probono.shtml>).

***Immigration Law and You***

<http://www.aila.org/content/default.aspx?docid=12621>

**Source:** *American Immigration Lawyers Association*

The AILA devotes this section of their site to helping visitors with immigration law issues. An “Immigration Lawyer Search” can be conducted in Spanish as well as English, and there are also areas for immigration reports and studies, guides and other links.

**Section 3: Becoming a U.S. citizen**

***New Citizenship Test***

<http://www.madisonpubliclibrary.org/ref/citizenshiptest.html>

**Source:** *Madison Public Library*

The Madison Public Library, WI, compiles this excellent set of resources giving information on the newly revised citizenship test, to be administered beginning October, 2008. Links to pdf files with information about the new test, sample questions, flash cards and other resources (some available in Spanish), and other practice test materials.

***Civics and Citizenship Study Materials***

<http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis>

**Source:** *U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services*

From the main USCIS page, click on “Education & Resources,” and from there, visitors may access pages with many study materials to aid in preparation for citizenship tests. Many of these are also available in Spanish.

***Citizenship Resources***

<http://www.nypl.org/branch/services/citizenship.html>

**Source:** *New York Public Library*

The New York Public Library puts together this helpful list of immigration resources, related to becoming a U.S. citizen. Sections include reasons for becoming a U.S. citizen, the application process, citizenship materials, and more.

***Resources for Becoming a U.S. Citizen***

<http://dallaslibrary.org/CGI/citizen.htm>

***Source:*** Dallas Public Library Urban Information Center

Some of the resources here are specific to the Dallas/Texas area, but there is also a great deal of information and resources available here that will be very useful for immigrants living in any state. This very organized, thoughtful presentation covers citizenship and naturalization, citizenship classes, contacting USCIS, exam prep, forms and photos, organizations and more.

***Immigration Resources: Know Your Rights***

<http://www.uiowa.edu/~nrcfcp/latino/knowyourrights.shtml>

***Source:*** University of Iowa National Resource Center for Family Centered Practice

The University of Iowa compiles an excellent set of resources for immigrants, including a section devoted to knowing your rights

(<http://www.uiowa.edu/~nrcfcp/latino/rights.shtml>). Gathered from multiple reliable resources, the English and Spanish (if available) versions are laid out side by side, in an extremely easy and accessible manner. Covers topics like right to representation, right to an interpreter, general bill of rights, etc.

***Promoting, Educating, and Empowering Immigrants and Their Advocates***

<http://www.ilrc.org/immigrants.php>

***Source:*** Immigrant Legal Resource Center

The ILRC dedicates this section to immigrants and advocates, with empowering information on living and working in the U.S. Includes areas on “Know Your Rights,” “Watch out for Immigration Fraud,” community resources and more. Also available in Spanish (<http://www.ilrc.org/inmigrantes.php>).

***Immigration Basics: Legal Help***

[http://www.aifl.org/imms/im\\_legal.asp](http://www.aifl.org/imms/im_legal.asp)

***Source:*** American Immigration Law Foundation

This overview is concise and logical, as it takes immigrants through the steps to finding reliable legal immigration assistance, and protecting their rights regardless of legal status. There is also a printable flyer, available in both English and Spanish, called “Protect Yourself and Your Family.”