



CATHOLIC LEGAL IMMIGRATION NETWORK, INC.  
DIVISION OF RELIGIOUS IMMIGRATION SERVICES  
**RELIGIOUS IMMIGRATION QUARTERLY**  
Volume XIV Fall 2007

### **USCIS Updates**

*October 2007 Visa Bulletin:* The October 2007 visa bulletin shows that the availability of immigrant visas for religious workers is current. This means that all religious workers with an approved I-360 petition may file their I-485 applications for legal permanent residence.

### **Letter Campaign to the White House**

*Overview:* On August 31, 2007 CLINIC sent a letter to all existing clients either via listserv or direct mail urging them to draft a letter to the President regarding the adverse effect the proposed religious worker regulations will have on their organizations and the populations they serve. We suggested the letters include personalized stories about the religious workers, such as whether they had to leave the U.S. in order to avoid violating their immigration status or that the massive delays in processing kept them in limbo for an inordinate amount of time. We also recommended that the letters discuss the organization's experiences with massive delays, with increasing costs of bringing in foreign born religious workers, and with eligibility restrictions on religious worker status that severely limit their ability to provide needed services to local residents through social service programs and programs based in their parishes.

Included in the packet CLINIC sent out were the following: (1) Memo from Most Reverend Gerald R. Barnes to all U.S. Bishops; (2) Sample letter drafted by USCCB to President Bush; (3) USCCB Summary of Proposed Regulation on Religious Workers; and (4) Additional points from CLINIC about the proposed regulations.

These letters can be sent by email ([comments@whitehouse.gov](mailto:comments@whitehouse.gov)) or by fax (202-456-2461) to the White House. We encourage you to send the letter as soon as possible, as we anticipate issuance of the final regulations soon.

Clients who provided email addresses received this information via listserv. Clients who have not yet provided an email address received this information via direct mail. CLINIC would like to get all clients online, so please provide us with an email address in order to be put on our listserv. If you have not received this information and would like to write a letter, please contact Angelia Amaya at [aamaya@cliniclegal.org](mailto:aamaya@cliniclegal.org) or at (202) 756-5549.

## **CLINIC Financial Controls**

DRIS has a new Client Agreement which bifurcates the payment of fees and the mailing of documents to the case attorney. Effective immediately, all fees for DRIS services will be sent to CLINIC's Accounting Department. All supporting documents will be mailed to the attorney handling the case under separate cover. This new Client Agreement may be downloaded from our website.

## **Staff News**

*Retiring:* **James Michael Hoffman** will retire October 1, 2007 after 38 years of service to refugees, immigrants, and the Catholic Church. For the past 18 years, Jim has worked as a Senior Immigration Specialist for CLINIC, most recently within the Division of Religious Immigration Services (DRIS). Jim passionately represents archdioceses, dioceses, religious orders, congregations and Catholic organizations that wish to bring priests, nuns, seminarians and lay religious workers to the United States. Jim has the longest tenure of any employee of CLINIC and its sister agency Migration and Refugee Services (MRS) of the United State Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). Jim brings years of experience to his work, is famously dedicated to his clients, and devotes many hours above the regular workweek towards serving them. He is an inspiration to his colleagues, as he leaves behind a legacy that has touched the lives of tens of thousands of people. The immigrant community has no better champion than James Michael Hoffman. We wish Jim a long and happy retirement!

*Welcome* to Sairah Saeed and Nina McDermott who have joined DRIS as associate staff attorneys. Sairah is a 2004 graduate of the University of Notre Dame Law School and the former Law Fellow with the Alliance for Justice in Washington, D.C. Nina is a former DRIS intern and attorney with the May Law Group in Pittsburgh, PA. Nina is a 2006 graduate of Duquesne University School of Law in Pittsburgh, PA.

Phyllis Barney and Zeshan Mustafa are interning with DRIS for the fall semester. Phyllis is a third year law student at Howard University and Zeshan is a third year law student at Catholic University.

## **2007 Trainings**

- ❖ Training for individuals who are religious workers, Philadelphia, PA, October 26, 2007.
- ❖ Training for private attorneys, paralegals and staff of programs with 501(c)(3) status on religious workers, the proposed religious worker regulations, and students visas, Lansing, Michigan, November 15-16, 2007.