



## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

As the New Year beckons us, we at VisaPro are striving hard to introduce exciting services to make your visa processing even more Fast, Easy and Economical! We embraced 2006 with a resolution to divulge into [UK Immigration](#) and other [Country-Specific Websites](#) ensuring you the ultimate user experience. It has been your continued support and belief that has made this journey and every new introduction of a service a memorable moment. I wish you all a very [Happy and Prosperous New Year!](#)

In spite of the new Democrat-controlled Congress taking office in January, H-1B visas will still remain the focal point of debate. The present H-1B blackout will end in April when the USCIS will begin taking H-1B applications for visas that will be issued in October at the start of the 2008 fiscal year. Last year, with high demand for H-1B visa holders, the USCIS reached the 65,000 visa cap in less than two months after it began accepting applications. In addition, 20,000 H-1B visas limited to graduate students was gone in four months. In this fiscal year, the strong demand will lead to proposals to raise the H-1B cap being introduced again in Congress. This will be no less than a rat-race! However, the lame duck Congress deferred consideration of larger immigration issues to the 110th Congress which convened in January.



The month of December saw some innovative developments to our existing services. [VisaDesk](#), a service that will provide Global Immigration Services to Attorneys, Human Resource Consulting, HR Outsourcing, Corporate Relocation Services and other Third-Party Service

Providers who want to provide immigration services along with their regular services. For some of you seeking visa options to U.K., VisaPro brings you [Online and Telephonic Consultations](#) with our immigration experts. The added advantage would be an online written opinion in less than 3 business days from a licensed immigration solicitor or adviser.

Keeping up with the tradition, this month's [IN FOCUS](#) section will take you through our attorney's experiences in Bangalore: our first Immigration Workshop in the immigration events series last year. To make sure to be a part of his travelogue, don't miss reading your **Immigration Monitor**. Just add our address [Immigration-Monitor@VisaPro.com](mailto:Immigration-Monitor@VisaPro.com) in the list of your contacts to ensure you receive it straight into your email inbox. I am sure you wouldn't want to miss out on the latest you need to know from the immigration front.

We at VisaPro wanted to get a first hand insight into

## IN THIS ISSUE

- Latest News
- In Focus
- Immigration Article
- Processing Times
- Discussion Corner
- Questions and Answers
- Success Stories

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## YOUR OPINION

Would you be willing to pay extra if the USCIS offered Premium Processing for K-1 and K-3 visas?

- a. Yes
- b. No

[Cast Your Vote](#)  
[View Results](#)

## IMMIGRATION QUIZ

### Win a FREE Online Consultation!

Submit your answer to the query below. The best response will be published in the next **Immigration Monitor** and the winner will receive a **FREE Online Consultation** from an Experienced VisaPro Immigration Attorney during the month of February 2007.

*I am working on a non-*

the H-1B back-end preparation that has gathered full momentum in companies. We have consolidated our findings from the discussion with our clients for you through our [Industry Perspective Article](#) in this issue.



Last month Kim Balmer had a tough competition to win the **Immigration Quiz**. This time it seemed to be a cakewalk for Myraa Parker. Congratulations to **Ms. Parker** for winning a **FREE Online Consultation** with VisaPro Attorney.

Would you like to see your name as the WINNER in the next issue of **Immigration Monitor**? Surf through VisaPro.com to find the correct answer to this month's question.

As part of our continued efforts to provide you with The Best, our team is currently working on various exciting projects for this year. Your suggestions are valuable, so do [let us know](#) how we can help you out better! A lot of activity is expected in the next few months with the H-1B quota being released in April. As always, we will keep you posted on all the news you need to know.

**Get geared for an exciting year ahead!**

*Christine*

#### RECENT IMMIGRATION EVENTS



VisaPro Attorney  
Mr. Thomas Joy  
with Delhi Attendees



Consular Interview  
Mock Session



Seminar Attendees  
at Pune

[More](#) ▶

#### LATEST NEWS

##### [I-130 no longer accepted at U.S. Consulates](#)

Effective immediately, the immediate relative petition (I-130) must be filed with the USCIS office responsible for the petitioner's place of residence. Consular offices at U.S. embassies and consulates are no longer authorized to accept I-130s, although they will continue to provide guidance to American citizen petitioners and their family members.

##### [Passport requirements for air travel](#)

Starting January 23rd, 2007, the citizens of the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Bermuda will be now required to present a passport to enter the United States while arriving by air from any part of the Western Hemisphere.

##### [USCIS introduces online change of address](#)

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) launched a new web-based service allowing USCIS customers to submit change of address information online.

[Read More News](#)

*immigrant visa in the U.S., recently I got married to a U.S. citizen and now I want to apply for Adjustment of Status. Will I need a Work Permit to continue working in the U.S. and will I be able to travel outside the U.S. while I'm waiting for my AOS to be approved?*

[Submit Your Answer](#)

**Immigration  
Issue?**

Consult Our  
Experienced  
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#### **Winner of the Immigration Quiz - December 2006:**

Myraa Parker

#### **The Question:**

*I am currently working with a company on L-1A visa. I am planning to apply for Green Card, but my employer is not willing to sponsor for my Green card. Do I have to apply by myself? If I find an employer who is ready to sponsor my Green Card, should I work for them right away? I have a two year contract with my current employer.*

#### **The Winning Response:**

You need an employer to sponsor your Green Card. You can't apply on your own. You need not necessarily work for the Green Card sponsoring employer right away. Once you get your Green Card, you must start working for that employer.

Myraa Parker receives a **FREE Online Consultation** from an Experienced VisaPro Immigration Attorney during the month of January 2007.

#### **JOBS @ VisaPro**

- Full-Time
- Part-Time

## IN FOCUS

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### Travelogue: Immigration Workshop in Bangalore

This month's IN FOCUS section will journey you through yet another exciting day in our attorney's travelogue: Bangalore, our first Immigration Workshop in the immigration events series last year.

[Read Full Article](#) | [Read More Articles](#)

## INDUSTRY PERSPECTIVE

### Get Geared for the H-1B Season

We bring to you first hand insight into the "talk of the town": H-1B quota and all the preparation and paper work that the companies are getting ready with this year.

[Read Full Article](#) | [Read More Articles](#)

## PROCESSING TIMES

XML

[▶ Visa Bulletin](#)    [▶ USCIS Processing Times](#)    [▶ Local USCIS Offices](#)

## DISCUSSION CORNER

[Fiance questions???](#)

By Prettyg

[H1B transfer to small companies](#)

By Gsivamal

[B1 visa Extension](#)

By Lux\_1

[More Discussions](#)

### H-1B VISA (Persons in a Specialty Occupation)

Quick, Easy, Economical.

Online Processing  
Apply Now!

VisaPro



## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- I am from Mexico. I am looking for a job in a USA company to work with. My question is: Do I need to live in the USA while working there or I can live in Mexico and work. What other requirements are there to work in USA? Thank you in advance.**

The TN visa is available for citizens of Canada and Mexico, under the terms of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). A citizen of a NAFTA country may work in a professional occupation in the U.S. provided that all of these conditions are met: The profession is recognized under NAFTA; the applicant possesses the specific criteria for that profession; the prospective position requires someone in that professional capacity and the applicant is coming to work for a U.S. employer. Most professional jobs require possession of a baccalaureate degree as an entry-level requirement; some positions

• **Semi-Retired**

**Job Type:** W-2 or 1099

**Location:** Work from anywhere in the U.S. No need to relocate.

▶ [Immigration Attorney](#)

▶ [Senior Paralegal](#)

### GOT A QUESTION?

If you have a short, simple query on immigration to the U.S., send your questions to us. We will select and answer a few of the queries in every issue.

**Note:** Responses posted in this section provide only general information. Since immigration law is a complex matter, please [consult](#) an immigration attorney before acting upon any responses

offered do not require a degree. Instead, for some of these positions, an alternative criterion to the degree such as experience is permitted.

provided.

[Ask Your Question](#)

2. **I am working for a company in my Optional Practical Training (OPT) period. Even after the expiry of the grace period of 60 days in my OPT, I will be having a gap until the [H-1B](#) quota opens by October 1. Please advise the appropriate plan of action.**

You may not remain in the US beyond your currently authorized period of stay—unless you change your status to a new visa that would allow you to stay. Your earliest start date will be for October 1, 2007—unless Congress changes the law before then, you will be out of status after your expiry of the grace period. You may have to depart the US and apply for the H-1B outside the US—again, unless Congress changes the law on H-1B cap. You may apply to change the status to B-2 for this period to remain inside the US. But USCIS may or may not approve such request though you may remain in the US while the USCIS makes a decision on your B-2 change of status application. B-2 status does not allow you to work.

[More Q&A](#)

## SUCCESS STORIES

"For me, it was like appearing in a board exam to sit in front of an Officer at US Consulate. But with the Internet services which is shrinking the world & bringing world class services on your laptop, I got the opportunity to get in touch with [VISAPRO local office at Hyderabad, India](#).

Their services are excellent right from the first interaction of putting across a visa process request to the delivery of the package to the client. Their online document management system is best which enables you to do a lot with your documents that you would like the attorney to go through, before processing your US Visa request.

The professional care that was extended to me is definitely to my knowledge only experienced attorneys who are involved in visa processing on a daily basis can handle.

I would have been satisfied with a 1 year Multiple entry --- But a 10 year Multiple entry is something which is beyond my imagination.

I wish VISAPRO all the very best & wish that they continue to provide such excellent services to enable US Visa seekers to pursue their dreams. And at the same time, I express my gratitude to the organization in making it possible for the applicants to place the FACTS at the CORRECT PLACE & in a PRESENTABLE manner, which could be noticed easily by the interviewing officer. I don't mind shelling out US \$295 for VISAPRO's service if I get either a 1 year / 5 year or 10 years Multiple entry US Visa."

All the very best

**Mr. Sanjay Kumar Mukherjee**, Director  
Shreema Software Solutions Pvt. Ltd.

[More Stories](#)

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We will give a **FREE Online Consultation** to whoever provides us with the best news story of the month. [Send](#) your story.

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**"Immigration Monitor"** is published monthly for users and clients of VisaPro.com. Our goal is to help keep you informed of the trends and events related to US Immigration.

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