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UPDATE FOR CURRENT CLIENTS: Employment Based Interviews & Permanent Residency Processing Times

Our office has received a number of calls and inquiries regarding long wait times for I-140 and I-485 approvals, particularly in light of the posted processing times on the USCIS website.

While the Nebraska Service Center indicates it is processing I-140s filed before 6/1/17 (with an NIW processing date of 2/2/17), and an I-485 processing date of 3/3/17, this does not appear to be at all accurate. A couple of things may have contributed to the misleading nature of the dates.

First, the USCIS has started in-person interviews for ALL employment-based I-485 applicants filed on or after 3/6/17. Where the I-140 is already approved, we are seeing these files transferred for interview in accordance with the processing dates listed on the USCIS website, and cases are moving fairly quickly. We will contact you when your I-485 interview is scheduled to prepare for the interview.

Second, nearly all of our I-485 cases filed between November 2016 and March 2017 are still pending, and nearly all will have Requests for Evidence (RFE) for new medical exams [medical exams expire after one year]. The USCIS seems not to be considering these "non-interview" cases in the posted processing times, or may have considered them "processed" when placed in the RFE queue. Calls to Customer Service are not helping move these cases more quickly. However, we have been receiving a steady stream of RFEs, and will let you know when we hear about your case.

Individuals who are particularly anxious about getting a case approved more quickly may want to consider premium processing the I-140 petition, if it is not yet approved. We *generally* see I-485 cases approved a couple months more quickly when the I-140 is premium processed. Please contact our office if you would like to premium process your I-140, for which the USCIS charges an additional \$1225 fee (note: NIWs are ineligible for premium processing).

Dated: January 11, 2017