



## SZE Immigration Newsletter

February 2010

Dear Friend,

Happy New Year! 2009 has passed in what seemed a moment and 2010 enters with much excitement; the H-1B cap was just met, folks are beginning to ramp up for the April 1st H-1B filing date and immigration reform is being pushed to the forefront. Although we may not know exactly what to expect in 2010, those of us in immigration know that change is always around the corner. With that said, below are several articles discussing some significant events in U.S. immigration in 2009.

Best Regards,

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### Changes to Prevailing Wage Request System

Effective January 1, 2010, the system for requesting a prevailing wage determination has been centralized to the Department of Labor's National Prevailing Wage and Helpdesk Center. The NPWHC now handles all requests for prevailing wage determinations previously handled by each individual state's workforce agency. Under the new centralized system, prevailing wage requests are to be mailed to the NPWHC office in Washington, DC (although an electronic filing system will go into effect on January 21). [Read more...](#)

### FY-2010 - The H-1B Cap not Reduced to a Lottery in 5 days

The H-1B cap for fiscal year 2010 has been a source of surprising ups and downs for all involved in the immigration process. As has been tradition for the past several years, the H-1B process began in full swing at the beginning of 2009 with the anticipation of the H-1B lottery in April. This year, however, came with the surprise that the H-1B cap had not been met after the initial April filings. Many anxious U.S. employers were gratefully able to take a deep breath knowing that they were going to be able to hire the necessary talent they required to help their business grow in our recessing economy. [Read more...](#)

### New Visa Application Required by U.S. Consulates

The Consular Electronic Application Center (CEAC) is being developed by the Department of State to support an Inter-net based, full service application service center where applicants for a nonimmigrant visa can submit their application, make payments, upload photos, attach biometrics and/or other documents and check the status of their application. [Read more...](#)

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