

# Immigration updates

February 6, 2017

In an effort to summarize the latest developments concerning the executive order signed by President Trump on Friday, January 27, we have outlined below the most recent developments as of 4 pm EST Saturday, February 4. (Please note that the matter is continually evolving and, as such, the information provided below may have changed since the time of its preparation.)

- 1) President Trump signed an executive order on Friday, January 27 restricting travel to the United States for citizens of seven countries: Iraq, Iran, Syria, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen. This ban was to be in effect for 90 days. In addition the executive order also suspended entry of all refugees, regardless of origin, to the United States for 120 days and barred Syrian refugees indefinitely.
- 2) A federal judge in New York ruled that travelers with valid visas who are entering the United States cannot be removed. This lawsuit was filed by the American Civil Liberties Union who represented travelers entering John F. Kennedy International Airport and were subject to deportation orders.
- 3) On Friday, February 3, a federal judge in Seattle ruled the following:
  - a) Entry into the United States cannot be prohibited by the Executive Order where a person has a current, validly-issued visa.
  - b) Admission of refugees cannot be prohibited by the Executive Order.
  - c) Processing of refugee claims and admission of refugees cannot be prioritized based on religion.
  - d) Syrian refugees cannot be prohibited from being admitted to the United States.
- 4) Customs and Border Protection has issued a statement that they will adhere to this ruling and it has been reported that they have called the airlines to advise that they are resuming inspection of travelers from the seven impacted countries. The State Department stated they are re-validating visas that were recently revoked.
- 5) At this time, airlines have indicated they are boarding individuals from the seven countries listed above.

This situation is obviously in flux. The Administration has indicated that they will be challenging the Seattle court's ruling. It is our advice that clients who maintain nationality of one of the seven countries listed in the Executive Order and who are in the United States not travel if they can avoid doing so. Travelers who maintain valid U.S. visas and who are traveling to the United States should be aware of the most up to date information before they travel.

This newsletter provides general information and is not intended as legal advice.

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