



a ministry of Disciples Home Missions

disciplesimmigration.org · P.O. Box 51433, Durham, NC 27717 · 317-289-1407 · tana@dhm.disciples.org

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Dear Clients*:

I pray this letter finds you well and thriving in the ministries to which God has called you. I'm writing to let you know about recent policy changes that may affect your pending or upcoming immigration cases.

You already know that immigration is not easy and that it is particularly challenging now. Unfortunately, U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS), the agency deciding your cases, has changed its mission from administration of the legal immigration system to enforcement according to the administration's anti-immigrant agenda. This hostility is evident in several of the agency's new policies.

There have been record levels of Requests for Evidence (RFE) and Notices of Intent to Deny (NOID) nationwide. Approvals are still possible but only after much delay and additional submissions. To make matters worse, this month USCIS announced it will increasingly deny petitions outright without issuing RFEs or NOIDs or providing any opportunity to contest their incorrect application of law or findings of fact. This policy will go into effect on September 11, 2018. USCIS also announced a new policy of initiating removal (deportation) proceedings against anyone whose status has expired by the time her/his application is denied. This policy is not yet in effect.

It remains to be seen exactly how USCIS will implement these policies, and I will be monitoring them closely over the next few months. My commitment has always been to put forward the strongest possible cases, to force USCIS to follow the law, and to advocate zealously for all of my clients. That commitment will not change. I need your cooperation more than ever to gather additional evidence when requested and to work with me in timing your cases and planning your travel in order to protect you from the harsh consequences of this deteriorating system.

I don't want you to worry unnecessarily, but I do want you to know what we are facing. My job is to worry *for* you and to plan accordingly. It is a privilege to walk with you through these processes, even in these difficult times. I remain hopeful for your futures. As always, if you have questions or concerns about your particular cases, please contact me by phone or email (not social media).

Peace,

Tana Liu-Beers
Disciples Immigration Legal Counsel

* "Clients" refers *only* to individuals and organizations who have a current signed Immigration Representation Agreement with Disciples Home Missions/Disciples Immigration Legal Counsel. Brief consultations or receipt of this communication do not establish an attorney-client relationship with Disciples Immigration Legal Counsel.