

### **WHAT IS AN H-1B VISA?**

An H-1B visa is a non-immigrant visa for aliens seeking employment in the United States in a specialty occupation. A specialty occupation has been defined as a job which requires at least a Bachelor's degree as the minimum educational qualification for the job.

### **HOW CAN ONE OBTAIN AN H-1B VISA?**

The alien must first have a sponsor (employer) willing to employ them and file the necessary paperwork on their behalf. There is a numerical limit on the number of H-1B visas issued each year. For fiscal year 2010, the limit is 65,000.

### **WHAT ARE IMMIGRATION NUMBERS?**

Immigration numbers are assigned to each applicant once they are approved. The 65,000 number also includes numbers for individuals with Masters Degrees, who are assigned 20,000 of these numbers.

### **WHEN CAN ONE APPLY FOR THE H-1B?**

The filing period begins on April 1 of each year. The employees start date must be at least six months from the time that the application is filed. The earliest date that an employee can start employment in their specialty occupation is October 1 of each year, therefore applications filed on April 1 must have a start date of October 1 of the same year.

If you have any further questions regarding the H-1B Visa, please don't hesitate to contact our office for a consultation.