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# immigration

CLIENT ALERT

## Special Alert:

### USCIS Announces That the Congressionally Mandated H-1B Cap for Fiscal Year 2017 Has Been Reached

On April 7, 2016, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (“USCIS”) announced that it had reached the Congressionally mandated H-1B cap for fiscal year 2017 (“FY17”). This announcement applies to both the general cap of 65,000 and the additional cap of 20,000 for those with advanced degrees from U.S. universities.

Once the USCIS completes its intake of all FY17 H-1B petitions received today, the agency will conduct computer-generated lotteries to determine which H-1B petitions have been selected for processing. The USCIS will first hold the advanced degree lottery for the 20,000 visas in that cap category. Once that lottery is completed, the unselected petitions will be added to the lottery for the 65,000 general category. Petitions that are not selected in either lottery will be formally rejected and returned with the filing fees.

Due to the enormous volume of H-1B petitions filed for FY17, the USCIS is presently unable to predict when it will be able to conduct these lotteries. Stay tuned!

Any questions about the H-1B cap or any other aspect of the immigration process should be addressed to your Epstein Becker Green attorney.

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