

The Race for H1B Visas: Who are the Winners?

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Is your company getting ready for the annual H1B visa race? Are you hoping to process enough visas to meet personnel needs? Or are you one of the potential employees waiting to see whether the USCIS will allow you to enter the U.S. on a temporary work visa? How will future President Obama's advisors impact the cap for these work visas? What kind of changes will take place?

Meet potential Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano. Her confirmation hearing will be overseen by Senator Joseph Lieberman, an occasional friend and occasional foe of the H1B Visa Program and its reform. While both Ms. Napolitano and Mr. Lieberman have advocated heavily for an increase in the number of H1B visas issued each year, Mr. Lieberman is also a strong proponent of visa reform.

Ms. Napolitano's push for increasing the top on the number of visas issued each year is based on the solid argument that the United States lacks skilled workers to fill the technological needs experienced by American companies. Although she couldn't achieve her desired reforms (this is controlled by Congress, and is currently set at 85,000), she could push to streamline the process, making the application much easier for persons with foreign degrees.

Another potentially positive outcome of Napolitano's nomination as Director of the Department of Homeland Security is that students who earn American Degrees would have no difficulty obtaining an H1B visa after passing a background check. In fact, she advocates attaching a green card to these students' diplomas! She believes this streamlining would help to keep technology workers, as well as helping to retain the innovations in design and technology, within the United States.

In order to successfully promote her program, however, Ms. Napolitano will probably be forced to rectify the many indiscretions that have become a part of the H1B program. In reviewing several applications over the last two years, USCIS officials found that more than one-fifth of these applications violated federal rules and regulations. Even more so, certain trends surfaced in the violations.

First, some foreign degree evaluations, which are required for persons seeking H1B visas, reference diplomas or universities that simply do not exist. Some applications contain plagiarized signatures. While some applications were processed for shell companies. In addition, some companies hired workers to perform job duties not listed on the labor certificate.

Career Consulting International is a foreign education credential evaluation agency whose experts take care to ensure that their foreign degree evaluations meet USCIS requirements. By keeping the agency's standards high, executive director Sheila Danzig ensures the agency's prestigious reputation among immigration attorneys, USCIS officials, and business corporations. She is currently preparing for another booming H1B season rush.

Author and education expert Sheila Danzig is the executive director of Career Consulting International, a foreign credential evaluation agency that evaluates foreign degree evaluations for immigration visas, employment, and university admissions. For more information on foreign academic credentials evaluations, visit The Degree People at www.thedegreepeople.com. Visit The Race for H1B Visas: Who are the Winners?.

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