



Leadership News

Carrie Selby Named Deputy Director

On April 7, 2014, Carrie Selby began serving as the VSC's Deputy Director. Carrie began her federal career in 1995 with the Social Security Administration in Albany, New York, where she served as an Administrative Law Clerk. In 1997, she transferred to St. Albans, Vermont, and joined the legacy Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) at the VSC. During her time with legacy INS and USCIS, Carrie served in various capacities, managing large programs and divisions, including Congressional Affairs and Adjudications.

In 2008, Carrie joined the Northeast Regional Office as the Assistant Regional Director and was responsible for the adjudicative oversight of 26 Field and District Offices within the Northeast Region. She rejoined the Vermont Service Center as an Associate Center Director in 2011, where she was responsible for managing the Family Division. In 2013, Carrie served as the Acting Chief of Staff where she worked closely with the USCIS Ombudsman's Office as well as the Local Union 2076 as the Chief Negotiator for Management.

Carrie will serve as the Acting Director of the VSC until that position is filled. The VSC would like to thank Laura Zuchowski, who served as Acting Director from February through April, for her leadership and dedication.



Carrie Selby is sworn in as the VSC's Deputy Director by Acting USCIS Director Lori Scialabba.

Filing Tips

- If you have generic questions about eligibility requirements, filing procedures etc., please visit www.uscis.gov.
- Wherever original signatures are required on any filing, signing in colored ink will help distinguish them from copies.
- We are no longer able to accept G-28s with a revision date prior to March 28, 2013.

When leaving messages on the VAWA telephone line, or when addressing our email accounts, please be sure to include:

- Your name, your firm's name and your contact number. These should match the G-28 on record.
- Your client's name, A number and/or receipt number
- Sufficient details to allow us to fully research the issue before returning your call

When sending messages to our email accounts, please include the nature of the inquiry in the subject line. Examples include:

- Expedite Request
- Change of Address
- Amending Petition Information
- Correction on Notice or Card
- When sending in multiple filings in a single envelope, ensure that different petitions, applications etc. are not binder clipped or fastened together.
- Be sure that petitioners and beneficiaries sign in the correct places.

USCIS Reaches FY 2015 H-1B Cap

USCIS announced on April 7 that it had received a sufficient number of H-1B petitions to reach the statutory cap of 65,000 visas for fiscal year (FY) 2015. USCIS also received more than the limit of 20,000 H-1B petitions filed under the advanced degree exemption.

USCIS received about 172,500 H-1B petitions during the filing period which began April 1, including petitions filed for the advanced degree exemption. On April 10, 2014, USCIS completed a computer-generated random selection process, or lottery, to select enough petitions to meet the 65,000 general-category cap and 20,000 cap under the advanced degree exemption. For cap-subject petitions not randomly selected, USCIS will reject and return the petition with filing fees, unless it is found to be a duplicate filing.

The agency conducted the selection process for the advanced degree exemption first. All advanced degree petitions not selected then became part of the random selection process for the 65,000 limit.

On March 25, USCIS announced that they would begin premium processing for H-1B cap cases no later than April 28. For more information on premium processing for FY 2015 cap-subject petitions, see the related USCIS Alert.

USCIS will continue to accept and process petitions that are otherwise exempt from the cap. Petitions filed on behalf of current H-1B workers who have been counted previously against the cap will not be counted towards the congressionally mandated FY 2015 H-1B cap.

VSC Grand Opening Ceremony



The VSC's newest facility at 38 River Road in Essex, Vt.

On May 1, the VSC, in conjunction with the General Services Administration (GSA), hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony for its newest facility in Essex, Vt. The 54,000-square-foot building will house approximately 275 employees.

VSC Chief of Staff Sandi Bushey served as the master of ceremonies, and VSC Acting Director Carrie Selby provided welcoming remarks. USCIS Acting Director Lori Scialabba and GSA Regional Administrator Robert Zarnetske provided keynote remarks. In addition, representatives from the offices of Vermont's three congressional delegates, Sen. Patrick Leahy, Sen. Bernard Sanders, and Rep. Peter Welch, provided remarks.

Approximately 100 people attended the event, including Essex town officials, USCIS and GSA employees, and members of the media. Office of Legislative Affairs Chief James McCament also attended.

Officers in this facility will adjudicate:

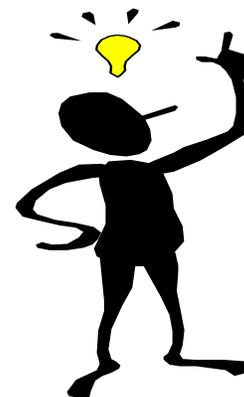
- Nonimmigrant work petitions for nurses, athletes, artists/entertainers, etc.
- Extensions or changes in nonimmigrant status for certain types of academic students
- Humanitarian visa classifications
- Temporary Protected Status applications
- Employment Authorization Requests, and requests for travel documents

The opening of the building allowed the VSC to cease operating on two shifts, which had been necessary because of limited space at the other VSC facilities. Employees were able to move in to the new space on March 10, and many have commented on what a pleasant work environment it is.

Acting Director Scialabba noted the importance of providing employees with a comfortable work environment, saying, "This new building is not just a new workspace. It represents our commitment to our USCIS employees."

VSC Employee Suggestion Program

The VSC has designed an Employee Suggestions Program (ESP) to collect, review and implement employee suggestions. We are using an online collaboration platform to provide an easy and transparent means for submitting and tracking suggestions that can be viewed by all employees.



Through that system, we will provide status updates and final resolutions to the suggesting employee as well as to all employees.

The objectives of the program are to:

- Improve the VSC and foster a "workplace of choice" environment
- Improve customer service/satisfaction
- Enhance quality
- Reduce costs
- Improve communication and transparency

The process was designed to be simple, involve collaboration between the employee and management, be as timely as possible, and provide a venue for formal submission of ideas to improve or enhance the VSC.

The program allows USCIS to highlight success stories, share best practices and track the progress of suggestions. Any employee can submit an idea and let his or her voice be heard.

Vermont Service Center

Contact Information

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
75 Lower Welden Street
St. Albans, VT 05479

National Customer Service Center (NCSC): (800) 375-5283

VAWA Hotline: (802)527-4888

hotlinefollowup1360.vsc@uscis.dhs.gov

hotlinefollowup19181914.vsc@uscis.dhs.gov