



Brief Summary of Meeting with DOS and USCIS at the U.S. Embassy, Lima, Peru

On May 19, 2015, a group of AILA members, including members of the AILA Department of State and International Operations Committees, met with U.S. Consul General Catherine Holt and Regional USCIS Field Office Director Patrick Lujan. Though detailed minutes of the meeting will be posted on www.AILA.org in the coming days, the following is a summary of the meeting/tour highlights.

Interviews: The Consulate in Lima has more than ten windows for interviews and the ability to conduct private interviews in a confidential room for sensitive cases. At the present time, nonimmigrant visa interviews take a bit longer (from arrival at the Embassy to completion) due to the need to capture fingerprints and manually input data into the system on the same day as the interview. However, the Consulate is taking steps so that in the near future (possibly summer of 2015), biometrics will be taken off site in advance, and manual data entry will be minimized by enhanced software and efforts made in advance of the interview. Interviews are conducted from 7:30 AM to 3:00 PM. Photos meeting visa specifications may be taken on the Embassy grounds. A petitioner is welcome to attend an interview and will be allowed in, but rarely will the Post require that the petitioner appear.

The Department of State recently announced that visa renewal applicants are eligible for interview waiver. See the [American Embassy Lima Peru website](http://AmericanEmbassyLimaPeru.website) regarding visa visitor renewal program for further details.

Expedites: The Post will expedite emergency cases such as the need for a student visa because classes are starting, or an urgent medical issue. The online visa appointment system provides an option for requesting an expedited interview. Otherwise, visa interview wait times vary, but are normally scheduled within two weeks. Upon approval of a visa, the passport with visa is sent out the next day by DHL and delivery time is 2 to 7 days depending on the location of applicant.

Locally Filed I-130 Petitions: The volume of locally filed I-130s varies. Processing time for locally filed I-130s is generally less than one month. These can be expedited for emergent reasons. The Local National Identity Document is proof of lawful residence in Peru for U.S citizens.

Attorney Representation: Attorneys are not allowed to appear for visa interviews because of space limitations. However, the Post will consider and appreciates a well-written legal memorandum outlining the facts and legal arguments. Complex legal issues will be referred to the Visa Office. In addition, note that USCIS has

public window hours for walk-in inquiries from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM on Tuesdays and Thursdays and an attorney (if in Lima) can appear with the client and a G-28 to inquire about case. Attorneys are also welcome to communicate with the Post and USCIS using the general contact information:

- Nonimmigrant Visas: NIV@state.gov
- Immigrant Visas: LimaIV@state.gov
- USCIS: Peru.uscis@uscis.dhs.gov
- Phone: 011-511-6180-2000

Pending Applications and Biometrics: The Post often gets requests for biometrics to be taken at Post, for example, in a pending I-131. Absent a demonstrated emergency and a compelling reason as to why the applicant cannot return to the United States, biometrics will not be taken at the post. USCIS is expected to issue guidance this coming summer which will describe situations where an applicant who would normally be required to have biometrics captured domestically, may instead appear at a USCIS international office to have biometrics taken.

USCIS Field Office: The USCIS Field Office in Lima has jurisdiction over the region which includes Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, French Guiana, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Surinam and Venezuela.

For more information on USCIS International Operations, see “[Overview: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services International Operations Division](#),” which was provided to AILA by USCIS Lima.