



Immigrant Investor Program Office (IPO) EB-5 National Stakeholder Engagement (August 13th) - California IPO Deputy Chief Harrison Remarks

We have made a concerted effort over the last several months to ensure that we have our workflow running smoothly and that cases are adjudicated in an equitable sequence - generally “first in -first out”, with some grouping of petitions that relate to the same new commercial enterprise for efficiency. At the same time we have also focused on going back and capturing cases that were filed in 2012 and 2013 that had gotten out of order and made those the priority. While we are not 100% finished with that effort, we are almost there and I expect that we will be completely finished with this effort by the end of the calendar year, if not before. We also heard from some of you that some Regional Centers are reporting having their I-526s adjudicated in a matter of weeks where

others are taking several months. There are a few reasons that this may happen. For instance, in some instances a Regional Center or individual petitioner will submit a request for their petition to be expedited, if this request is granted the petition or petitions will move to the front of the line and get assigned to the next available officer. Another reason that has happened is that on June 15, 2015, USCIS stopped accepting electronically filed Forms I-526, Immigrant Petition by Alien Entrepreneur, and also discontinued the Regional Center Document Library. As part of this effort, IPO needed to complete the adjudication of those electronically filed petitions immediately. As always, please feel free to contact our customer service team if you are concerned about the progress of your application or petition.

Next, I would like to share a little about our upcoming *EB-5 Interactive*. *EB-5 Interactives* are engagements that take a deep dive on a specific EB-5 related topic. To date, we have held two *EB-5 Interactives* and our next interactive is scheduled for September 17, 2015. In keeping with our commitment to provide greater customer

service and transparency, we decided to ask you, our stakeholders, to provide ideas on suggested topics through the USCIS Idea Community. The USCIS Idea Community is an online portal that provides a forum to discuss topics raised by the agency, vote on those topics, and/or provide feedback that most concern stakeholders or customers. IPO solicited topic ideas from our stakeholders throughout July and although we are appreciative of those who did submit ideas and comments, we did not receive enough suggestions to pick a topic based on consensus from the Idea Community. As a result, we decided to focus our next interactive on the I-924A process. We hope to give you another opportunity by use of the Idea Community, social media (Facebook and Twitter) and through engagements such as this one to help us select our next topic for our first interactive in 2016. I encourage you, if you haven't already, to visit our website (uscis.gov) and sign up to receive announcements and messages about future opportunities to engage with us. Our plan for the September interactive is to share some filing tips and expectations regarding the Regional Center annual

reporting requirements. I look forward to providing these tips and receiving information from you about this topic next month.