# Immigration Issues in Employment Law



WILNER & O'REILLY IMMIGRATION LAWYERS

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# The History of Employment Compliance

- Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) amended to include the Immigrant Reform and Control Act (IRCA)
- Employer sanctions codified at Section 274(A)
  - Purpose: crack down on employers who continued to knowingly employ undocumented persons
- IRCA also included a legalization provision ('amnesty'), which addressed the approximately 5m in the US at the time
- President Reagan thought the trade of amnesty for enforcement and border security would work... right?

1986

- The Homeland Security Act of 2002 saw the reorganization of what was then the INS, and created USCIS and ICE
  - Both are part of the Department of Homeland Security
- Office of the Special Counsel under DOJ still exists and enforces anti-discrimination provisions of I-9
- · EOIR is responsible for most document abuse cases
- USCIS/ICE and DOL have MOU for work-sharing, and allowing each other to take the lead in investigations that have already started

2002

1990-1996

1990-19

 IRCA mandated that persons would have to prove their right to work in the U.S. through the provision of documents and the completion of Form I-9

• The I-9 has gone through several iterations over the years, as has the act itself.

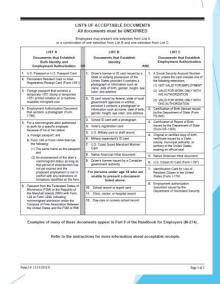
Unlike his colleagues, Larry could hardly wait to begin using the new two-page Form I-9

### What is an I-9?

- Mandatory for ALL employees- regardless of nationality
- Must be filled in within 3 days of hire
- Must be maintained for at least three years
- Employer is liable and responsible, not employee

8	Employment Eligibility Verification  Department of Homeland Security  U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services							
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Last Name (Family Name) First Nar				ne (Given Name)				
Address (Street Number and Name)		City or	Town			State	ZIP Code	
Employer Completes Nest Props								
Form I-9 11/14/2016 N							Page 1 of 3	





## Types of Documents

- I-551 Permanent Resident Cards
  - Conditional
  - ▶ 10 year
- I-551 Stamps in Passports or I-94 cards
- Employment Authorization Cards
  - Automatic Extensions
- ► I-751 Receipts showing automatic extensions

## **I-9 Inspections**

- Notice of Inspection (NOI) is served to produce I-9.
- ICE will usually also want payroll, list of employees and articles
- ICE will conduct full inspection of I-9 compliance.

Homeland Security Investigations

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
1000 2nd Avenue, Suite 2300
Seattle, Washington 98104





#### NOTICE OF INSPECTION

August 23, 2013

#### Dear Sir/Madam:

Section 274A of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended by the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, requires employers to hire only United States citizens and aliens who are authorized to work in the United States. Employers must verify the employment eligibility of persons hired after November 6, 1986 using the Employment Eligibility Verification Form 136

Federal regulations require the provision of three days notice prior to conducting a review of an employer's Forms 1-9. This letter serves as advance notice that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) has scheduled a review of your forms for August 29, 2013 However, you may waive the three-day period, should you wish to do so, by annotating and signing page two of this letter and advising this office of your decision.

During the review,
Auditor, will discuss the requirements of the law with you and inspect your Forms 1-9. In addition to the presentation of your Forms 1-9, you will need to present any documents copied as part of the employment eligibility verification process. If your business utilizes software for the electronic generation and storage of Forms 1-9, you will need to present the name of the software and vendor utilized, the internal business practices/protocols related to the generation of, use of, storage of, security of, and inspection and quality assurance programs your electronically generated Forms 1-9, the inked to each employee; documentation of the system used to capture the electronic signature, including the identity and attestation of the individual signing the Form 1-9, and the audit trail. Further, pursuant to 8 CFR 274-a. (26)(8)(ii)
Auditor, may contact you in the future to schedule a live demonstration of the creation and maintenance of an electronically generated Form 1-9.

www.ice.gov

## **I-9 Inspection Results**

- Notice of Inspection Results also known as a "compliance letter," used to notify a business that they were found to be in compliance.
- Notice of Suspect Documents advises the employer that based on a review of the Forms I-9 and documentation submitted by the employee, ICE has determined that an employee is unauthorized to work and advises the employer of the possible criminal and civil penalties for continuing to employ that individual. ICE provides the employer and employee an opportunity to present additional documentation to demonstrate work authorization if they believe the finding is in error.
- Notice of Discrepancies advises the employer that based on a review of the Forms I-9 and documentation submitted by the employee, ICE has been unable to determine their work eligibility. The employer should provide the employee with a copy of the notice, and give the employee an opportunity to present ICE with additional documentation to establish their employment eligibility.
- Notice of Technical or Procedural Failures identifies technical violations identified during the inspection and gives the employer ten business days to correct the forms. After ten business days, uncorrected technical and procedural failures will become substantive violations.
- Warning Notice issued in circumstances where substantive verification violations were identified, but circumstances do not warrant a monetary penalty and there is the expectation of future compliance by the employer.
- Notice of Intent to Fine (NIF) may be issued for substantive, uncorrected technical, knowingly hire and continuing to employ violations.

### ICE Enforcement to Increase

- ICE has announced that it will increase I-9 audits this summer
- ICE will continue to prioritize criminal cases
- California employers need to make sure to comply with AB 450

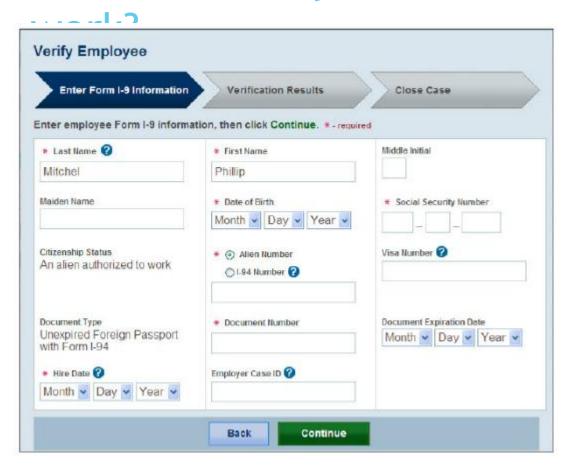
### **AB 450**

- Response to increase of ICE Enforcement
- Prohibits both public and private employers from permitting immigration enforcement agents to
  - Enter non-public areas of a workplace without a judicial warrant
  - Access, review, or obtain the organization's employee records without subpoena or court order

### **AB 450**

- Requires employers to notify employees that an immigration agency will be inspecting I-9 records within 72 hours of receiving notice of inspection
- Provide the results of the inspection to affected employees and their representatives, as well as any obligations owed by the employer and employee as a result of inspection
- ► Employers may be subject to fines up to \$5,000 for first violation and up to \$10,000 for subsequent.

# Should I use E-Verify? What is E-verify and how does it



- Internet-based system that allows businesses to very eligibility of employees to work in the U.S.
- Not mandatory

## Immigrant or non-immigrant

- Immigrant visas → Lawful Permanent Residency
  - No restrictions on employment
- Non-Immigrant → Temporary work visas
  - Generally restricted to petitioner/employer
  - Change of employers?

# Visas in the work place

#### E Visas

- Treaty investors visa
- Treaty traders
- E-3 (from Australia)
- Derivatives with EAD

#### H Visas

- Temporary work visas
- ► H1B, H2A, H2B
- H-4 Derivatives

#### O Visas

- Extraordinary ability
- ▶ 0-1A- science, education, business, athletics
- O-1B- motion picture/television

#### L Visas

- Intra-company transferred employees
- L1A- executives
  - L1B- specialized knowledge

#### Deferred Action

- Work Authorization
- 2 year increments





# Site Visits by Immigration

- Site visits/investigations by FDNS
- Reviews for compliance with work visas
- Voluntary, but strongly encouraged
- How employers should prepare for a potential site visit
- Before a site visit: Employers should be prepared to present any information originally submitted with the petition. The site inspector may also request additional information relevant to the petition.
- During the site visit: Employers should immediately provide any readily available documents and information that the site inspector requests.
- After the site visit: Employers should provide all additional information requested in any follow-up communication from USCIS.

### PERM AND PREVAILING WAGE

- Foreign alien worker- PWD by DOL
- Recruitment Process
- ► ETA-9089
- ► I-140
- Priority Dates
- Adjustment of Status or Consular Processing

# USCIS Rules on H-1Bs and I-140s

- A foreign national whose I-140 petition has been approved for 180 days or more will not have the petition automatically revoked if the employer goes out of business or withdraws the petition after 1/17/2017
  - ▶ However, the individual will need new job offer
  - Will retain original priority date
- Grace Period for Nonimmigrant Workers

#### Who is Involved?

- USCIS- United States Citizenship and Immigration Service
- DHS- Department of Homeland Security
- ICE- Immigration and Customs Enforcement
- CBP- Customs and Border Patrol
- DOL- Department of Labor
- DOS- Department of State
- FDNS- Fraud Detection and Nationality Security Directorate

# Proposed Changes- RAISE ACT- MERIT SYSTEM

- Raise Act proposed in 2017 with the merit based system
- Proposed a merit based point system
- Points
  - High paying job offer (13 pts max)
  - English fluency (12 pts max)
  - Age (closest to 25) (10 pts max)
  - Education (STEM and US degrees worth more)(13 points max)
  - Investment of at least \$1.35M in the US (12 pts max)
  - Extraordinary achievement (25 pts max)
  - Having been in line for an eliminated visa category (2 pts)

### MERIT BASED POINT SYSTEM

- Every year those with the most cumulative points would be permitted to apply for a green card.
- Need at least 30 points to be eligible
- 140,000 annual cap- no change



