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MEMORANDUM

Re: 2016 Visa Lottery (DV-2016)

The year 2016 Immigration Lottery has been announced for natives of all countries, except certain countries with already heavy immigration. There will be a maximum of 50,000 recipients.

Excluded countries are:

Bangladesh	El Salvador	Peru
Brazil	Haiti	Philippines
Canada	India	South Korea
China (Mainland, except Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan)	Jamaica	United Kingdom & dependent territories
Colombia	Mexico	(except Northern Ireland)
Dominican Republic	Nigeria	Vietnam
Ecuador	Pakistan	

ENTRIES FOR THE DV-2016 DIVERSITY VISA LOTTERY MUST BE SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY USING THE DS-5501, THE ELECTRONIC DIVERSITY VISA ENTRY FORM (E-DV ENTRY FORM) FROM NOON (EDT) (GMT-4) WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2014, THROUGH NOON, (EST) (GMT-5), MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2014. APPLICANTS MAY ACCESS THE ELECTRONIC INSTRUCTIONS AND THE DIVERSITY VISA ENTRY FORM (E-DV) AT WWW.DVLOTTERY.STATE.GOV DURING THE REGISTRATION PERIOD. PAPER ENTRIES AND MAIL IN REQUESTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE FILED AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE.

Only one application per person is permitted. If more than one application is filed, all applications will be disqualified. A spouse must include their present spouse and all children, (natural, adopted or step) under 21 unless the child is a U.S. citizen or holds a green card. There is no age limit for applicants. Applicants may view and print a confirmation screen, with a unique confirmation number. You must print this confirmation screen for your records using the print function of your web browser and retain the confirmation number. Starting May 5, 2015 you may check your entry status on-line on the website, under "Entrant Status Check", using your unique confirmation number and personal information. Winners will not be notified. "Entrant Status Check" will be the sole means of verifying selection. Individual photos must be submitted digitally for each individual listed on the application. These photos must follow strict criteria which are set forth on the website. If these criteria are not followed, the application will be rejected. Individual signatures are not required.

Winners will be selected at random. The applicant need not be in the United States in order to apply. Winners must follow up their applications carefully and quickly. Winners must complete the green card process by September 30, 2016. More than 50,000 winners will be picked in order to make sure that all 50,000 visas are actually issued, as some winners may not follow up or qualify. The two-year home residence requirement for J-1 visa holders will not automatically be waived, nor will prior visa misrepresentations or other bars to entry, including bars for overstaying. A winner must have at least a high school education or its U.S. equivalent or, within the past five years, have two years of work experience in an occupation requiring at least two years training or experience.

No fee is required to enter the lottery, but winners will have to pay the visa fee to the U.S. Consulate in their home country if the visa is processed at a U.S. Consulate, or the appropriate filing fee to USCIS in the U.S., if an adjustment of status application is filed in the U.S. There is also a separate lottery surcharge. A job offer with a commitment for at least one year need not accompany the application, but must be submitted by winners at their visa interview. This program will be repeated annually, but a new application must be filed each year. The list of excluded countries may change each year, as may certain requirements and procedures.

Please feel free to call should you wish to retain this office to file an application for you, or should you wish to make an appointment to discuss any immigration concerns. This office will not provide legal advice by telephone, nor will it file applications for which we have not been personally retained.

This memorandum is for informational purposes only and should not be relied upon as legal advice. Any legal questions should be discussed with a knowledgeable attorney. Receipt of this document does not create an attorney client relationship.