



### Leadership News

#### Message from Center Director Laura B. Zuchowski

I became the new VSC Director on June 30, 2014 and have thoroughly enjoyed these first couple of months as I get acquainted with the VSC team and the critical work performed here every day in support of the DHS mission. To start I have spent some time partnering with my peers at the other three Service Centers and met with all of them at the quarterly Service Center Directors conference held here at the VSC in August. Our many focus areas include the need to continuously engage across Centers to optimize on efficiencies, lessons learned, and improve our adjudication consistency across the Centers.

The VSC had the great honor of hosting the new USCIS Director, Leon Rodriguez, on August 28 and spending the afternoon with him providing an overview of the important work of the VSC. The visit concluded with a tour of our two facilities in Essex, VT, an opportunity for him to engage with VSC leadership and staff, including a one-on-one with an ISO walking through an adjudication of an I-130, and my own swearing-in.

I'm inspired by the dedicated, committed and highly talented workforce that serves as the backbone of the VSC organization, and am privileged to be selected to serve as the VSC Center Director. One of my focuses during my first year will be working closely with our Quality and Training teams as I'm a strong believer in spending the investment of time and resources upfront on training the "whole person" and having a robust Quality program. Together these functions will focus and complement one another in the development of our team and ensure the high quality adjudicative outcomes that the public deserves.

I look forward to working with all of our stakeholders and having an opportunity to meet many of you on October 24th at our annual stakeholder's engagement.



Laura Zuchowski is sworn in as the VSC's Director by USCIS Director Leon Rodriguez.

#### Reminder: Include Apartment Number with Address

Every year hundreds of packages sent from the VSC are returned as undeliverable. In many cases this is due to the fact that the applicant or petitioner did not include the apartment number when supplying us with his or her return address. Unless the applicant/petitioner or his or her attorney gets in touch with the VSC to update the address, we will be unable to deliver any packages or correspondence.

So remember to always provide the VSC with your complete address, including apartment number or suite number!

#### Reminder: VSC Oct. 24 Stakeholder Event

This is a reminder that the Vermont Service Center will be holding its annual stakeholder event on October 24, in Essex, Vermont.

We will be sending a formal invitation with a request for RSVPs in the coming weeks. In the meantime, you can email [vscommunityengagement@uscis.dhs.gov](mailto:vscommunityengagement@uscis.dhs.gov) if you have questions about the event. We look forward to hearing from you!

#### TN Collaboration Session with CBP

In July, the VSC hosted a multi-day TN collaboration session for officers from Customs and Border Protection and USCIS participants. USCIS participants included staff from the Office of Policy and Strategy (OPS), Office of Chief Counsel (OCC), SCOPS, and the VSC.

This session included a sharing of information amongst the staff from both agencies that resulted in all participants gaining a different and better perspective of various issues related to TN eligibility and border entry processes. The topics discussed and relationships established will lead to more consistent application of TN standards by DHS at the time of adjudication and/or entry by the beneficiary into the United States.



CBP Officers and USCIS staff at a TN collaboration session held at the VSC in July.

### TPS Filing Tips

Remember these important tips when filing and re-registering for Temporary Protected Status.

- Both the form I-821 and the form I-765 are required to apply for TPS. Applicants should file Forms I-821 and I-765 concurrently and in the same envelope.
- Applicants should ensure that the information on both forms match exactly or processing might be delayed.
- Applicants should answer **ALL** questions on both the I-765 and I-821 applications, as any missing answers could delay processing.
- Applicants seeking employment authorization subsequent to filing for TPS should include a copy of their most recent I-821 receipt or approval notice.
- Applicants should include documentation to support any name changes with their applications.

### H-1B Filing Tips and Religious Workers Engagement

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) invites you to participate in a stakeholder teleconference with the California and Vermont Service Centers on Thursday, October 9, 2014, from 11 a.m. -12:30 p.m. (Eastern). There will be two 45-minute sessions during this teleconference. The first session, from 11-11:45 a.m., will focus on H-1B filing tips. The second session, from 11:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., will focus on eligibility requirements for religious workers. During this engagement, USCIS subject matter experts will be available to answer your operational questions.

**To register for this teleconference, please follow the steps below:**

1. Email [CSC-CEO@uscis.dhs.gov](mailto:CSC-CEO@uscis.dhs.gov) and reference "H-1B Filing Tips and Religious Workers Engagement RSVP" in the subject line.
2. Include your full name and the organization you represent in the body of the email.
3. Once your registration is processed, you will receive a confirmation email with additional details.

NOTE: Please note that this engagement has been rescheduled from September 25 to October 9. If you previously registered for the September 25 event, please RSVP again for the October 9 engagement.

If you have any questions regarding the registration process, or if you do not receive a confirmation email within two business days, please email us at [CSC-CEO@uscis.dhs.gov](mailto:CSC-CEO@uscis.dhs.gov).

### VSC Director Speaks at State House Naturalization Ceremony

VSC Director Laura Zuchowski participated in a special naturalization ceremony this month at the Vermont State House. On Sept. 11, she delivered remarks alongside Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin, welcoming 87 new citizens from 44 countries and noting the particular significance of the day.

"As we mark this momentous occasion in your lives, we also pause to honor the senseless loss of thousands of people in the attack on our nation 13 years ago," she said. Laura spoke of the importance of rebuilding a resilient nation in the spirit of generosity and compassion. "You, as America's newest citizens, play a key role in that rebuilding. You strengthen the foundation of our nation with your contributions to American society and prosperity."

After the ceremony, Laura shared her remarks with the VSC employees:

"Witnessing ceremonies such as this reminds all of us at the service center that each of those applications represents a life, and that our work truly has profound impacts on those lives," she said. "It gave me a great sense of pride to be a part of the VSC team. Thank you for all you do every day to make dreams come true for so many people around the world."



VSC Director Laura Zuchowski delivering remarks at 9/11 ceremony

### Vermont Service Center Contact Information

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