

# IMMIGRATION 101 AND LEGAL OPTIONS FOR IMMIGRANT CHILDREN

Chay Sengkhounmany July 2022



# What is Legal Aid Society?

Legal Aid Society is a 501 (c )(3) private, non-profit law firm that provides education and representation in civil matters for low-income individuals, families and seniors, who normally could not afford legal services.

#### Mission:

To advance, defend, and enforce the legal rights of low-income and vulnerable people in order to secure for them the basic necessities of life.







o 10 Most Popul	ous Countries	
TOP 10 MOST POPU	ILOUS COUNTRIES (July 1, 2022)	
1. China	1,410,539,758 6. Nigeria	225,082,083
2. India	1,389,637,446 7. Brazil	217,240,060
3. United States	332,838,183 8. Bangladesh	165,650,475
4. Indonesia	277,329,163 9. Russia	142,021,981
5. Pakistan	242,923,845 10. Mexico	129,150,971

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	#	Country	Area (Km²)	Area (mi²)	% of world landmass
	1	Russia	16,376,870	6,323,142	11.0 %
$\square$	2	China	9,388,211	3,624,807	6.3 %
	3	United States	9,147,420	3,531,837	6.1 %
	4	Canada	9,093,510	3,511,022	6.1 %
	5	Brazil	8,358,140	3,227,095	5.6 %
	6	Australia	7,682,300	2,966,151	5.2 %
	7	India	2,973,190	1,147,955	2.0 %
	8	Argentina	2,736,690	1,056,641	1.8 %
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Demographics	6 Foreign Born	O.S. Born	Foreign Born	U.S. Born	Foreign Born	U.S. Born
Number	373,472	6,455,702	159,004	5,530,279	59,114	4,818,071
% Foreign Born	5.5%		2.8%		1.2%	
Population Change over Time						
% change: 2000-2019	134.9%	16.7%				
% change: 1990-2000	169.0%	14.8%				

https://www.migrationpolicy.org/data/state-profiles/state/demographics/TN



B1/B2 — BUSINESS VISITOR OR TOURIST VISITOR Highest number of international visitors Tennessee: Canada

Second highest number of international visitors to Tennessee: United Kingdom

2017: 767,000 international visitors to Tennessee

Approximately 14 million tourists to Tennessee every year

B-1 visitors visit the 967 foreign investment companies in Tennessee along with the U.S. owned companies







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# Definitions

#### US Citizens

Non-citizens

- 1. Immigrant Person entering the US to reside permanently (Legal Permanent Resident)
- 2. Nonimmigrant Temporarily admitted to US for a specific purpose other than LPR
- 3. Refugees or asylees Persecuted person

Naturalization

Visa vs. Status

Inadmissibility

Removal

Removal Proceedings (Formerly Called Exclusion and Deportation)









# Access to State Courts

- All **permanent legal** or **undocumented immigrants** within the jurisdiction of the United States have the same rights in every state and territory **to sue**, **be parties**, **give evidence**, **and have the full and equal benefit** of all state and federal laws
  - 42 USC 1981 (1970)
  - Wong Wing v. United States, 163 U. S. 228, 238 (1896)
  - Mathews v. Diaz, 426 U. S. 67, 77 (1976)
- Fundamental right to due process and equal protection under U.S. Constitution

# 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment of U.S. Constitution

All persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive **any person** of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to **any person** within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

# **Due Process and Equal Protection**

- Individuals are entitled to the protections of the Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses regardless of immigration status
- Immigrants whose presence in this country is unlawful are still recognized as "persons" in the ordinary sense of the term, thus, guaranteeing them the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendment rights to due process of the law
- Plyer v. Doe, 457 U.S. 202 (1982)





# What is Inadmissibility?

- Reasons that a person may be denied a green card, visa, or admission into US
- Triggered when someone applies for
  - (1) Legal permanent residence (green card)
  - (2) A visa from abroad
  - (3) Admission into US



# Categories of Grounds of Admissibility

- Health
- Criminal Activity
- National Security
- Likely to be a Public Charge
- Lack of Labor Certification
- Immigration violations
- Fraud and Misrepresentation
- Documentation Requirements
- Ineligibility for Citizenship
  - Miscellaneous

- Smugglers
- Unlawful Voters
- Failure to Attend Removal Hearings



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# What is the Public Charge Rule?

- **Ground of Inadmissibility** Reasons that a person may be denied a green card, visa, or admission into US
- **Public charge** Person is likely to become dependent on certain government benefits in the future
- Triggered when someone applies for legal permanent residence (green card), applies for a visa from abroad, or applies for entry into US











# Primary Path to LPR status

- Family-based Immigration 226,000 (not counting immediate family members)
- Employment-based Immigration – 141,918
- Special Legislation Cuban Adjustment Act
- Diversity Lottery 50,000
- U visas 10,000
- T visas 5,000
- Special Immigrant Juvenile Status - 9,940 (696 per country)
- Asylum
- Cancellation of Removal 4,000



Petition to show you have a qualifying relationshipMust meet the requirements to get a green cardGet priority dateAdjustment of Status (Inside U.S.)Consular Processing (Outside U.S.)Consular Processing (Outside U.S.)Many undocumented people often have a qualifying relationship and are able to get an approval for this step but cannot get approval for step 2Must show admissible Must not have •Committed certain immigration violations •Committed certain crimes •Certain contagious diseasesProblem of 3 or 10 year bar	elationship Get priority date Many undocumented people often have a	Adjustment of Status (Inside U.S.)
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Problem of 3 or 10 year bar	approval for this step but cannot get approval for	Must not have •Committed certain immigration violations •Committed certain crimes
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Department of Homeland Security U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services	n		
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RECEIPT NUMBER MSC	CARTHE 1130 IMMI CANT PETITION FOR RELATIVE, PIANCE(E), OR ORPHAN		
BECHTY DATE September 9, 2010 NOTICE DATE March 16, 2011 1 of 1	PRITIONER		
TITUS	Notice Type: Approval Notice Section: Husband or wife of U.S. Citizen, 201(b) INA		
united scales and will apply for adjustemat of mi- I-485. Application for Permanent Residence. A cop If the person for whos you are petitioning decides the petitioner should file Form I-424. Application to request that we send the petition to the Depart	on indicates that the person for whom you are petitioning is in the acuse. My we also also all values' the local USIS office to alwain Form you this motice should be submitted with the application. It is apply for a visua outside the bitted states based on this petition, a for Add Y was an approved Application of bases based on this petition, a for Add Y was an application of the bitted states based for the bitted Add Visa Center (NYO). Utions that require consults action. The NYC Also determines which		
consular post is the appropriate consulate to comp that consulate.	plete visa processing. It will then forward the approved petition to	17725	

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RECEIPT NUMBER EAC-15-072-50365		CASE TIPE 1765 APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYMEN
January 16, 2015	PRIORITY DATE	AUTHORIZATION AUPLICANT A205 644
February 11, 2015	PAGE 1 of 1	
AURORA C/O TEXAS RIOGRANDE LEG 316 S CLOSHER BLVD EDINBURG TX 78539	AL AID INC	Notice Type: Approval Notice Class: CO9 Valid from 02/11/2015 to 02/10/2016
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f any information on the comment, 1-766, a photocop	ard is incorrect, please y of this notice, and evi	write the office listed below. Include your Exployment Autho dence to support the necessary corrections.
THIS APPROVAL NOTICE IS NOT 1-766.	A VISA OR EVIDENCE OF EN	PLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION. NOR MAY 17 BE USED IN PLACE OF A VISA
ending for at least 180 day supplement the Form 1-485 r	ys and your underlying Fo ecord of proceeding with	nder INA 204(j) if your Form I-485 Adjustment application has rm I-140 is approved or is still pending. In order to do so, documentation relating to the new job offer that forms the ba on how to request to change employers and vint information i

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	Rensipt Namber	-	Case Type 1960 - PETITION FOR AMERASIAN, WIDOWER, OR SPECIAL IMMIGRANT	
	Received Data 12/3 S/2020	Priority Date 12/15/2020	Petitioner	
	Notice Date 05/12/2022	Figs 1 of 1	Beseficiary	
	LEGAL AID SOCIETY NASHVILLE TN 37217		Notice Type: Approval Notice Class: 6 Section: Special Immigrant-Juvenile	
	USCIS previously approved you		merasian, Widowtery, or Special Immigrant, with Deferred Action. proval Notice adds a grant of deferred action to the previous approval. +	
	USCIS approved your Form 1-30 you warrant a favorable exercise employment authorization docu	60, but you do not yet have an av of discretion to receive deferred ment. Deferred action is an act of ited States for a specific period a	160/10/2021. This notice is supplemental to the approval notice previously sent to you, aibility visu to file an application for adjustment of status. USCIS has determined that faction: As a routh you have been placed in deferred action ady you may be based an ainministrative convenience to the government which gives some individuals lower former. Your grant of deferred action will remain in effect for a period of four years from the previous status of the	A Contraction of the second se



# Immigration Relief Available to Survivors

- Asylum, Withholding of Removal, Convention Against Torture
- Cancellation of Removal
- Special Immigrant Juvenile Status
- Conditional Resident Waivers
- Violence Against Women Act Self-Petition
- U-Visa Victim of Crime Status
- T-Visa Human Trafficking Status



# Asylum

#### Requirements

- Have a well-founded fear of persecution
- Persecution "on account of" race, religion, political opinion, nationality or membership in a particular social group
- Persecution by the govt. or by a group that the govt. cannot control
- Filed within one year of US arrival
- Must not have persecuted others

- Legal permanent residence after 1 year
- Exempt from public charge ground
- Can get work permit after application has been pending for 180 days
- US citizenship after 5 years once LPR
- Immediate eligibility to public benefits
- Access to resources

# INA § 208 - Asylum

• Sec. 208. (a) Authority to Apply for Asylum.-

(1) In general. - Any alien who is **physically present** in the United States or who arrives in the United States (**whether or not at a designated port of arrival** and including an alien who is brought to the United States after having been interdicted in international or United States waters), irrespective of such alien's status, may apply for asylum in accordance with this section or, where applicable, section 235(b).

# Special Immigrant Juvenile Status

#### Requirements

- Unmarried and under 21 old
- Declared dependent on a juvenile court OR committed to/in custody of state agency or an individual appointed by the state
- Reunification with one or both parents is not viable due to abuse, neglect, abandonment or similar basis found under state law
- Not in the best interest of child to be returned to child's or parent's home country

- Legal permanent residence
- Parents of abused children not married to abusive parent are eligible
- Ex-spouses of USC or LPR abusers who were divorced more than two years are eligible
- Spouses or children of USC or LPR abusers who lost their statuses more than two years ago are eligible



## **VAWA Self-Petition**

#### Who is eligible

- Immigrant abused by
  - USC or LPR spouse or former spouse
  - USC or LPR parent
  - USC or LPR son or daughter
- Immigrant whose child abused by USC or LPR spouse or former spouse during the marriage

- Legal permanent residence under VAWA special provisions
- VAWA confidentiality protections
- Exempt from public charge ground
- With prima facie notice, may be eligible for certain public benefits if arrived in the U.S prior to 8/22/1996
- Can get work permit while awaiting permanent residency
- US citizenship after 5 years in LPR status
- Puts control back in the hands of the victim



### **U Visa**

#### Requirements

- Is a victim of a listed crime or is similar activity
- Suffered substantial physical or emotional harm
- Has been helpful, is being helpful, or is likely to be helpful in investigation
- Obtain certification from law enforcement or prosecutor certifying these elements

- Available to those who
  - Are not married to perpetrator
  - Are not married to a USC or LPR
  - Are dependent on spouse's nonimmigrant visa
- 4 years of non-immigrant status
- Work permit
- Legal permanent residence after 3 years in U status



### TVisa

#### Requirements

- Has been trafficked into the US for labor or commercial sex purposes
- Be willing to cooperate with the investigation or prosecution of the crime (unless under 18 and in commercial sex industry)
- Would suffer extreme hardship involving unusual and severe harm upon removal

- Legal permanent residence after 3 years in T status or after close of case
- 4 years of non-immigrant status
- Work authorization
- Access to public benefits and other resources
- US citizenship after 5 years in LPR status



