IMMIGRATION NEWSLETTER

BARTEN LAW P.C.
IMMIGRATION LAWYERS

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WHAT'S IN THIS NEWSLETTER?

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- October 2025 Client Event
- Attending Hearings Remotley
- USCIS Asylum Fees
- Senior Dog Sponsorship
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- Accepting New Clients August 2026



WORRIED ABOUT GOING TO THE IMMIGRATION COURT BUILDING?

You may be able to attend your hearing remotely.

If you or a loved one has an upcoming immigration court hearing, it's critical to attend- missing a hearing can seriously affect your case, status, and ability to remain in the U.S. Immigration court moves quickly and can be overwhelming, but you don't have to face it alone.

In some situations, our attorneys can request clients attend court from our office or from their home, depending on your case and the court. If you're unsure whether digital attendance is an option, or if attending in person will be difficult, speak with an attorney as soon as possible. Do not assume you can miss a hearing without consequences.

Our experienced immigration attorneys can guide you through every stage of the process, explain your options clearly, and advocate for you in court. Early legal guidance can make a significant difference.

Contact our office today to schedule a consultation and learn how we can help you prepare for your hearing and protect your rights.

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UNDERSTANDING USCIS ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS FILING CHARTS VS USDOS VISA BULLETIN

If you've ever been told to "wait for your priority date," you're not alone and you're not wrong to feel confused. Priority dates play a major role in many family-based and employment-based immigration cases, and understanding them can help you better plan your next steps. A priority date is generally the date your immigration petition (such as an I-130, I-140, or I-360) was filed. This date determines your place in line for a green card when numerical limits apply. Each month, the U.S. Department of State publishes the Visa Bulletin, which shows which priority dates are eligible to move forward. If you are applying for residency in the United States, you are the USCIS Adjustment of Status Filing Chart. If you are consular processing you are the USDOS Visa Bulletin.

USCIS may allow applicants to file using either:

- Dates for Filing (earlier filing opportunity on the Adjustment of status Filing Chart), or
- Final Action Dates (when a Immigrant Visa can actually be interviewed and approved)

When USCIS uses the Dates for Filing chart, eligible applicants inside the United States may be able to file their Adjustment of Status sooner than consular processing applicants under the Visa Bulletin Chart. They often gain benefits such as work authorization and travel permission while waiting for a final decision.

Why this matters:
Filing earlier can provide stability, legal protection, and peace of mind for individuals and families already living in the U.S. However, filing too early or too late can cause delays or missed opportunities.

Who This DOES NOT Apply To on the Adjustment of Status Filing Chart or the Visa Bulletin
❌ There is no category for "Immediate Relatives." People who are spouses of U.S. citizens, U.S. citizen children under age 21, or parents of U.S. citizens who are over 21. These people are immediate relatives and don't have numerical limits to filing.
❌ People applying from outside the U.S. (consular processing) do not use these dates to decide when to apply — they follow a different part of the Visa Bulletin.
❌ People whose priority dates are later than the cut-off dates listed here must wait until their category becomes current.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Not all applicants are subject to priority dates. Immediate relatives of U.S. citizens are not affected by visa limits, and applicants processing through U.S. consulates follow different rules.
If you're unsure whether your priority date is current or whether you can file now, our team is here to review your case and guide you through the process.

"Current" means anyone in that group may file now, without needing their priority date to be earlier than any cut-off date.
"Unsubscribed" means no one in that group may file during April/May 2026.

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Processing In The U.S.

May 2026 Family-Sponsored & Employment-Based

(These are the Dates for Filing, not the Immigration Visa Interview Date.)

If your petition was filed before your preference category date on the chart, you may file for residency as long as you meet other criteria.

Family- Sponsored	All Countries	China	India	Mexico	Phillipines
F-1 (Unmarried Children of U.S. Citizens)	Mar 1, 2018	Mar 1, 2018	Mar 1, 2018	Apr 15, 2008	Apr 22, 2015
F2A (Spouse & children of green card holders)	Current	Current	Current	Current	Current
F2B (Unmarried adult children of green card holders)	Aug 08, 2017	Aug 08, 2017	Aug 08, 2017	May 15, 2010	Oct 1, 2013
F3 (Married children of U.S. Citizens)	Nov 22, 2012	Nov 22, 2012	Nov 22, 2012	Jul 1, 2001	Jul 15, 2006
F4 (Siblings of U.S. Citizens)	May 15, 2009	May 15, 2009	Dec 15, 2006	Apr 30, 2001	Mar 22, 2008

Employment- Based	All Countries	China	India	Mexico	Phillipines
EB-1	Current	Dec 1, 2023	Dec 1, 2023	Current	Current
EB-2	Current	Jan 1, 2022	Jan 15, 2015	Current	Current
EB-3	Current	Jan 1, 2022	Jan 15, 2015	Current	Jan 1, 2024
Other Workers	Aug 1, 2022	Oct 1, 2019	Jan 15, 2015	Aug 1, 2022	Aug 1, 2022
EB-4	Jan 1, 2023	Jan 1, 2023	Jan 1, 2023	Jan 1, 2023	Jan 1, 2023
Certain Religious Workers	Jan 1, 2023	Jan 1, 2023	Jan 1, 2023	Jan 1, 2023	Jan 1, 2023

USCIS-https://www.uscis.gov/green-card/green-card-processes-and-procedures/visa-availability-priority-dates/when-to-file-your-adjustment-of-status-application-for-family-sponsored-or-employment-based-123

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June 2026 Family-Sponsored & Employment-Based

(These are the Dates for Filing, not the dates when green cards are actually approved.)

Family- Sponsored	All Countries	China	India	Mexico	Phillipines
F-1 (Unmarried Children of U.S. Citizens)	Oct 1, 2018	Oct 1, 2018	Oct 1, 2018	Oct 1, 2018	Apr 22, 2015
F2A (Spouse & children of green card holders)	Current	Current	Current	Current	Current
F2B (Unmarried adult children of green card holders)	Mar 22, 2018	Mar 22, 2018	Mar 22, 2018	May 15, 2010	Oct 1, 2013
F3 (Married children of U.S. Citizens)	Dec 8, 2012	Dec 8, 2012	Dec 8, 2012	Jul 15, 2001	Aug 8, 2006
F4 (Siblings of U.S. Citizens)	Dec 22 2009	Dec 22 2009	Dec 15, 2006	Apr 30, 2001	Mar 22, 2008

Employment- Based	All Countries	China	India	Mexico	Phillipines
EB-1	Current	Dec 1, 2023	Dec 1, 2023	Current	Current
EB-2	Current	Jan 1, 2022	Jan 15, 2015	Current	Current
EB-3	Current	Jan 1, 2022	Jan 15, 2015	Current	Jan 1, 2024
Other Workers	Aug 1, 2022	Oct 1, 2019	Jan 15, 2015	Aug 1, 2022	Aug 1, 2022
EB-4	Jan 1, 2023	Jan 1, 2023	Jan 1, 2023	Jan 1, 2023	Jan 1, 2023
Certain Religious Workers	Jan 1, 2023	Jan 1, 2023	Jan 1, 2023	Jan 1, 2023	Jan 1, 2023

https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/legal/visa-law0/visa-bulletin/2026/visa-bulletin-for-may-2026.html

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THANK YOU, CLIENTS!

Thank You for Joining Our Client Celebration!

We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined us for our Client Celebration event on October 17th here at the firm. It was a wonderful afternoon filled with good conversations, delicious tacos, and plenty of cake!
This year is especially meaningful as we celebrate our 20th anniversary as a law firm. Reaching this milestone would not have been possible without clients like you who continue to support our mission and our work.
Thank you for being part of our community. We look forward to serving you for many more years to come!









STAFF SPOTLIGHT: CASE MANAGERS
YOUR GUIDES EVERY STEP OF THE WAY



Ivonne, Jack, & Sofia



Andrea



Naara

Case Managers

Our Case Managers play a vital role in supporting both our clients and immigration attorneys. They are knowledgeable, approachable, and often able to assist our clients in their native language. Every member of our Case Manager team is fluent in Spanish, which makes a meaningful difference for many of the individuals and families we serve.

From start to finish, our Case Managers are actively involved in each client's case, working closely with the immigration attorney to help ensure the process runs smoothly and that clients feel supported every step of the way. With more than 35 years of combined experience, the team brings valuable knowledge, consistency, and care to each matter. We are proud to recognize our Case Managers and the important role they play at Barten Law, P.C.

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Share Your Experience With Us: Review Us!

Your experience matters to us and your feedback helps others find trusted legal support during such important moments in their lives.
If our team has assisted you with your immigration journey, we would truly appreciate you taking a few moments to leave us a review. Your words not only help our firm grow, but they also help future clients feel confident in choosing legal representation they can trust.
As a small thank-you, clients who leave a review are welcome to stop by our office or ask the front desk at their next appointment for a complimentary branded tote filled with helpful office essentials.

Leave a review. Stop by. Take a tote.

SCAN ME



included with tote:
-BartenLaw notepad
-BartenLaw pen
-Fridge magnet

> "We may have all come on different ships, but we're all in the same boat now."
>
> -Martin Luther King Jr

ADOPT JAX: SENIOR DOG SPONSOR

Jax is a lovable 11½-year-old Lab mix searching for the retirement home he deserves. This handsome 85-pound gentleman was surrendered when his family moved and couldn't take him along. He is house- and crate-trained, loves walks, car rides, and tossing a ball around, and enjoys being part of the action. Jax does well with respectful children and would thrive as the only pet, though he may get along with a calm dog companion. With his big personality, loyal heart, and love for one-on-one time, Jax is ready to spend his golden years in a forever home filled with comfort, companionship, and love.

Forever Home Dog Rescue - Indianola, IA
Email: adopt@foreverhomedogs.org
Phone: (515) 270-2915

ADOPT ME





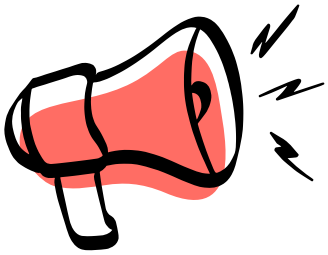


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IMPORTANT ASYLUM UPDATE FROM USCIS: PAUSE ON PENDING APPLICATIONS & NEW FEE

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has recently issued significant changes affecting asylum applications and related fees that all applicants and advocates should be aware of. In December 2025, USCIS implemented a policy memorandum directing a temporary pause on decisions for all pending asylum applications filed using Form I-589, meaning that while interviews may continue, final approvals or denials are on hold until further notice as part of a comprehensive review of adjudication procedures. This pause applies regardless of nationality and also affects other immigration benefit requests for certain foreign nationals.

At the same time, new filing fee requirements tied to asylum applications have been introduced. Effective with filings under the updated fee schedule, applicants must now pay a $100 filing fee when submitting an initial asylum application. In addition, there has been legislative authority for a $102 annual asylum fee for cases pending more than one year.



These developments represent major shifts in how asylum applications are processed and financed, and they may impact timelines, budgeting, and planning for clients and service providers alike. Stay informed and seek legal guidance to navigate these evolving requirements.



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ACCEPTING DETAINED CASES

Having a loved one detained by immigration authorities is frightening, overwhelming, and confusing. Families are often left with urgent questions and little information about what comes next. During this difficult time, it is critical to have experienced legal support as soon as possible.

Our office is currently accepting detained immigration cases and is prepared to assist individuals who are being held in immigration detention, as well as their families.

How We Can Help Detained Individuals

When someone is detained, time is extremely important. Detained cases move quickly, and missing deadlines or hearings can have serious consequences. Our team can help by:

- Reviewing the detained individual's immigration history and current situation
- Explaining available options, including bond eligibility and relief from removal
- Preparing and filing necessary documents with the Immigration Court
- Representing detained individuals in immigration proceedings
- Preventing the detained individual from ICE pressure to singing away their rights.

*Every case is unique, and even if someone has been told there are no options, it is still worth having the case reviewed.

Communication With Family Members

We understand how important it is for families to receive updates and information about their detained loved one. However, due to privacy and ethical requirements, we must first receive verbal authorization from the detained individual before we can share case information or communicate in detail with family members.

Once the detainee provides verbal permission allowing us to speak with specific family members, our office will be able to provide updates and answer questions related to the case.

Act Quickly - Time Matters

Detained immigration cases often have strict timelines. The sooner legal help is involved, the more options may be available. If you or a loved one is currently in immigration detention, we encourage you to reach out as soon as possible.

ACCEPTING NEW CLIENTS: AUGUST 2026



Barten Law P.C. is now booking new clients for **August 2026.** While our upcoming calendar is filling quickly, we are continuing to accept new inquiries at this time. Intake remains open for select case types, with a current focus on employment-based immigration matters, as well as asylum, detention, and removal defense cases.

We encourage you to reach out to begin the intake process.