

USCIS Announces Final Rule Adjusting Immigration Benefit Application and Petition Fees

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CUEVAS & GARCIA, P.A.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW



Andrew Cuevas, Esq. - President
e-mail: acuevas@cuevaslaw.com

Tel: (305) 461-9500

Fax: (305) 448-7300

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Intro:

Mr. Andrew Cuevas, Esq., is the President of Cuevas & Garcia, P.A., and Vantage Property Title Company. Mr. Cuevas has been practicing law since 1993 in the area of Business Immigration Law and Commercial transactions, including commercial and residential real estate transactions and business acquisitions for foreign investors. If you have any questions regarding this article or any other questions, you can contact Mr. Cuevas at (305) 461-9500 or at acuevas@cuevaslaw.com. If you are interested in reading previous newsletters, please visit www.cuevaslaw.com, select the icon for **Newsletters**, and then choose the area of law you are interested in.

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On October 24, 2016, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announces a final rule published in the Federal Register adjusting the fees required for most immigration applications and petitions. The new fees will be effective December 23, 2016. This is the first fee increase made by USCIS since November 2010.

USCIS is almost entirely funded by the fees paid by applicants and petitioners for immigration benefits. The law requires USCIS to conduct fee reviews every two years to determine the funding levels necessary to administer the nation's immigration laws, process benefit requests and provide the infrastructure needed to support those activities.

Fees will increase for the first time in six years, by a weighted average of 21 percent for most applications and petitions. This increase is necessary to recover the full cost of services provided by USCIS. These include the costs associated with fraud detection and national security, customer service and case processing, and providing services without

charge to refugee and asylum applicants and to other customers eligible for fee waivers or exemptions.

Applications and petitions postmarked or filed on or after Dec. 23 must include the new fees or USCIS will not be able to accept them.

For additional information regarding the New USCIS Fees, please feel free to contact our office.

This article is solely a partial explanation of all the issues related to the topic of this newsletter, and is not to be considered legal advice. Persons interested in obtaining more information should consult with their legal counsel to obtain explanations of all issues addressed herein.