

**IMMIGRATION ALERT:****DV-2018 Immigrant Visa Lottery Program****Please Deliver this Notice to the Appropriate Responsible Company Personnel**

The United States Department of State has released details of its 2018 Diversity Immigrant Visa Lottery Program (DV-2018). Individuals selected in this lottery will be entitled to apply for one of up to 50,000 immigrant visas ("green cards") made available under the Program. Full instructions for the DV-2018 Program are available on the Department of State website:

<https://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/immigrate/diversity-visa/instructions.html>

Individuals who currently reside inside or outside the United States may participate in the lottery. Participants must have the equivalent of a high school education (correspondence programs or equivalency certificates such as the G.E.D. are not acceptable), or have completed two years of work within the past five years in an occupation requiring at least two years of experience or training. For more information about determining whether an occupation meets this requirement, please refer to the Department of State's guidance on qualifying occupations: <https://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/immigrate/diversity-visa/if-you-are-selected/confirm-your-qualifications.html>

For the DV-2018 Program, natives of the following countries are not eligible to apply due to their high rates of immigration to the United States in recent years: Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, China (mainland-born), Colombia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Haiti, India, Jamaica, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, South Korea, United Kingdom (except Northern Ireland) and its dependent territories, and Vietnam. However, note that in certain instances an individual can claim the birthplace of a spouse or parent born in a qualifying country and submit an application. Please review the Department of State's instructions (see above) for an analysis of these provisions.

The entry procedure for the DV-2018 Program is simple and does not require the assistance of an attorney. The Department of State instructions (see above) will enable individuals and their family members to proceed on their own.

Entries must be submitted electronically at [www.dvlottery.state.gov](http://www.dvlottery.state.gov). Paper entries are not accepted. There is no fee to submit an entry. The application period is from noon Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) on Tuesday, October 4, 2016 to noon, Eastern Standard Time (EST) on Monday, November 7, 2016. Entries outside this application period will be rejected. Submitting your application early during the application period is strongly encouraged. Heavy demand during the last week of the registration period may result in website delays or inaccessibility. Entries require submission of a digital photograph of the applicant and each family member (separate photos for each). The photos must conform to the instructions on the Department of State website or the entry will be disqualified. Only one entry may be submitted for each applicant during the application period. Submission of multiple entries for any individual will disqualify all applications for that individual for the DV-2018 Program (although otherwise eligible individuals may submit compliant applications in future years).

Upon application, entrants will receive a confirmation page with a unique confirmation number. It is extremely important to retain the confirmation page and unique confirmation number in order to access the online status check system.

If you have any questions regarding this LEGALcurrents®, please do not hesitate to contact any member of our firm's Immigration Practice Area at (585) 232-6500. ■



**Harter Secrest & Emery LLP**

ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS

**ROCHESTER**

1600 Bausch & Lomb Place  
Rochester, NY 14604-2711  
585.232.6500

**BUFFALO**

50 Fountain Plaza, Suite 1000  
Buffalo, NY 14202-2293  
716.853.1616

**ALBANY**

111 Washington Ave., Suite 303  
Albany, NY 12210-2209  
518.434.4377

**CORNING**

8 Denison Parkway East, Suite 403  
Corning, New York 14830-2638  
607.936.1042

**NEW YORK**

733 Third Avenue  
New York, New York 10017  
646.790.5884