



IMMIGRATION INSIDER

Kerr, Russell and Weber, PLC

Summer 2017



Kate McCarroll
Member

Kate has extensive experience in employment-related immigration law, including inbound/outbound immigration, Department of Labor/ Department of Homeland Security audits and I-9 compliance training.

Kate has also handled matters involving criminal and inadmissibility issues, family-based immigration, and asylum proceedings.

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Miroslava Orduño Rincón
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Miroslava has extensive employment-related experience in regard to U.S. non-immigrant and immigrant petitions for large international clients. She also processes outbound visitor and work visas, family-based petitions, and naturalization.

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Increased Vetting of Visa Applicants and Travelers Seeking Entry

In response to President Trump's March 6, 2017 memorandum demanding increased screening for visa applicants, the Department of State (DOS) issued a new questionnaire which will be required of applicants who have been deemed to warrant additional scrutiny. The additional questions may be sent electronically to the applicant, or they may be asked at the time of the visa interview. These questions include the applicant's travel history, employment history, and addresses for the last 15 years; biographical information for current and prior spouses, children, and siblings; and social media handles for the last five years. It is unclear how much additional time will be required for the DOS to analyze and investigate the data, therefore, visa issuance timelines could increase.

In addition, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has stepped up its scrutiny of international travelers seeking admission to the United States. Specifically, CBP has confirmed that it has increased electronic device searches at all Ports of Entry. Travelers should be prepared to have cell phones, lap tops, and other electronic devices searched when entering the United States.

H-1B Site Visits

In April, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced that it would take a more targeted approach when making site visits to H-1B employers and worksites. Specifically, USCIS will focus on H-1B dependent employers; cases involving foreign nationals who work off site of the petitioning employer; and petitions in which USCIS cannot verify the employer's basic business information through commercially available data. These site visits are aimed to detect fraud in the H-1B visa program.

It is critical for employers to have a plan in place in the event that a USCIS, Department of State, Department of Labor, or Immigration and Customs Enforcement Officer visits its workplace. If an Officer does come to your worksite, please contact Kerr Russell immediately.



**Robert S. Anderson
Of Counsel**

Robert counsels and represents clients in the full spectrum of immigration legal issues as applied to their workforces and staff, including all aspects of the international movement of personnel for local, national, and international companies.
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Kerr Russell Attorneys Attending AILA National Conference

Kerr Russell's immigration attorneys will be attending the American Immigration Lawyers' Association Annual Conference in New Orleans from June 21 through 24. Although there may be a delay in our response, we will be accessible during this time, should you need to reach us.

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