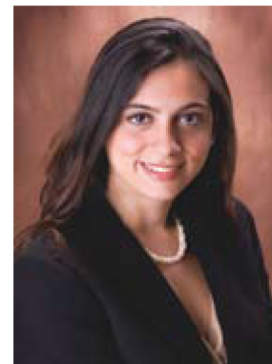




IMMIGRATION RECIPES FOR SUCCESS

By Paula F. Montoya, Attorney

My family and I are from England. We have always wanted to live in the United States and have our children attend U.S. schools and my spouse be freely allowed to work. Will owning a home and/or business make things easier for us to obtain a visa or green card?



Unfortunately, owning a home or investing in real estate will not entitle you to a visa or enable you to able you to obtain permanent resident status. It offers only the benefit of living in your property during a temporary visit to the United States. Nevertheless, owning a business in the United States or abroad widens your horizons. In your pursuit of the American dream as an executive, manager, investor or entrepreneur, you can increase your opportunities of acquiring an extended stay or permanent status, by contributing to and supporting the U.S. economy. Depending on your business personality, the array of choices in America offers various alternatives to accomplish your objectives.

The Executive: If you are the owner of your business, or you hold a position as an executive or manager for a company abroad, you may be transferred to its existing or new U.S. branch, subsidiary, affiliate or joint venture partner, with the L-1A visa. The L-1A visa is often a preliminary step for future permanent residence.

The Investor: If you are lucky to be a national of a country that has a bilateral investment treaty with the United States, you may choose to invest in the United States by purchasing an existing business, opening a new business or buying a franchise, without the need of having ties to a company abroad. The E-2 visa has no minimum investment requirements; however, such investments must be substantial, depending upon the type of business. While the E visa does not offer a path to a green card, it can be renewed indefinitely.

The Entrepreneur: If you are a professional willing to take your investment to a higher level, the EB-5 petition may be your most appropriate selection. This category was created to offer permanent residency for persons of any country who have between \$500,000 and \$1 million, and are willing to invest in a U.S. commercial enterprise that will create full time employment for not fewer than 10 U.S. citizens or permanent residents.

Satisfying Results: James Stewart, the Irish owner of a successful pub in Dublin, opened a new U.S. location with an L-1A visa. Manish Patel from India invested \$2 million in a U.S. hotel development that would generate more than 50 jobs, under the EB-5 category. Maritza Pena, a Mexican botanist, purchased a floral shop and developed her new business as an E-2 investor. James and Manish worked in their U.S. businesses while their children attended local schools and their spouses worked in their own areas of interest. They eventually became permanent residents within three to five years of coming to the United States. Maritza lived in the United States for 18 years before returning to Mexico. Her children attended U.S. schools, and her husband worked as an engineer while her floral shop allowed them to continue renewing their E visa.

When selecting an immigration method for your life in the United States, remember, preparation is the recipe for success. The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service, the authority for the processing of visas, can be a tough critic when approving visas or green card applications. For the essential ingredients for your entry into the United States, consult with an attorney knowledgeable in immigration, business and real estate law to maximize your chances of success and protect your investments.

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Estate Planning
Wills, Trusts, Probate, Living Wills, Powers of Attorney, Health Care Directives, Pre-Need Guardians, Trust Administration, Pet (Animal) Trusts

Probate
With or without a Last Will, in order to obtain assets, pay debts and taxes and distribute remaining assets to the heirs or beneficiaries, the deceased's estate requires the assistance of an attorney to manage the court supervised administration.

Corporation & Business Law
Contracts, Start-ups, Purchase or Sales, Corporations (Inc.), Limited Liability Companies (LLC's), Trademarks, Copyrights, Franchise Agreements

Real Estate
 Closings, Title Insurance, Sales & Purchases, Leases, Contract Review, Contract Preparation

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