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## DIVERSITY VISA LOTTERY

### OVERVIEW

The congressionally mandated Diversity Immigrant Visa Program makes available up to 55,000 diversity visas (DVs) annually. It is drawn randomly among all entries from persons who meet strict eligibility requirements from countries with low rates of immigration to the United States.

### QUALIFICATIONS

- A native of an eligible country
- A high school education or its equivalent
- Two years of work experience within the past five years in a occupation requiring at least two years' training or experience.

### INELIGIBLE COUNTRIES

- Brazil, Canada, China (excluding Hong Kong, Taiwan, S.A.R.), Columbia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Jamaica, Pakistan, Mexico, Peru, Phillippines, Poland, South Korea, United Kingdom (except northen Ireland) and its dependant territories and Vietnam.

### PROS

- Chance for ineligible people to be able to get a green card.
- If you get a green card your spouse and unmarried children under 21 will also get a green card.

### CONS

- Winning the Diversity Visa Lottery **does not** guarantee you a green card.
- It can be taken away from you based on misuse, such as committing a crime.

### FROM LOTTERY TO PERMANENT RESIDENCY

First there is a three step process to obtain your green card from the lottery:

**Step 1:** You must register for the lottery which means filling out an online application that places your name among those who maybe selected through the Lottery Drawing System. Once you successfully register you will get a notice of receipt from the State Department. There is no fee to register and it changes every year to check travel.state.gov and click on Diversity Visa (DV) Lottery instructions for latest announcements. Winner will be notified online within approximately six months. **Winner will not be personally notified so you must check the website.**

**Step 2:** Winner of the lottery can proceed fill out the

green card application, together with their accompanying relative if any.

**Step 3:** If your interview was at a U.S. Consulate in another country, you must enter the U.S. with you immigrant visa at which time you can become a permanent resident upon passing an inspection by a U.S. Border Officer.

### WHAT IF YOU ARE ALREADY IN THE U.S.?

If you are in the United State illegally, it maybe impossible for you to collect a green card. Even if you win the lottery and meet the educational requirements because procedurally you will have to leave the U.S. for an interview at a Consulate outside the United States. At that point you can be prohibited from reentering the United States for 3 years if you illegally overstay for six months, and ten years if illegally overstay for a year. There are some exceptions if you are legally in the United States, which means a valid visa that has not expired. Other exceptions are if you are grand fathered in under 245i or if you have a valid student visa.

**Are you interested in a consultation on the legal issues listed below? Then please check your choice(s) below and we will schedule a meeting with an attorney.**

- Tax & Financial Planning For Individuals
- Save Your Home From Foreclosure
- Estate Planning & Wills
- How to get a green card

**COMMENTS:** \_\_\_\_\_

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