MEMO: USC PERMANENT RESIDENCE SPONSORSHIP

Currently, the university actively sponsors faculty and staff for permanent residence where possible and where the hiring unit supports the process. Once an individual and his/her position qualify, the responsible department administrator and the individual should meet with Cheryl Gilman, Director of FSVS, to discuss the specific situation and appropriate next steps.

Appointments can be made by calling the OIS front desk at 213-740-2666.

TENURE TRACK/ TENURED and CLASSROOM TEACHING POSITIONS

USC will consider sponsoring tenured or tenure-track classroom and some (but not all) lecturer and clinical teaching positions for legal permanent residence sponsorship immediately upon job offer where the hiring department supports the process. Other criteria include:

1) Must be employed at USC in H-1B, O-1, or other working nonimmigrant status allowing “dual intent” (not “single intent” status such as F-1, J-1, TN or OPT).
2) The department must be offering a full-time position. Part-time does not qualify.
3) If a grant-funded position, the grant must exceed 4 years.
4) The individual must have no background issues that might disqualify her/him from admission as an immigrant (immigration violations, felonies, etc.).

OTHER FACULTY AND STAFF

USC will consider sponsoring non-teaching Faculty (including Research Professors) and other Staff seeking USC sponsorship of permanent residence where the hiring department supports the process and the situation meets the following criteria:

1) Must have been employed at USC for two (2) years in H-1B, O-1, or other working nonimmigrant status allowing “dual intent” (not “single intent” status such as F-1, J-1, TN or OPT).
2) The department must be offering a full-time position. Part-time does not qualify.
3) If a grant-funded position, the grant must exceed 4 years.
4) The individual must have no background issues that might disqualify them from admission as an immigrant (immigration violations, felonies, etc.).

IMPORTANT: THE ROLE OF OUTSIDE ATTORNEYS

ALL REQUESTS FOR USC SPONSORSHIP OF PERMANENT RESIDENCE MUST GO THROUGH THE HIRING DEPARTMENT TO FACULTY/STAFF VISA SERVICES.

NOTE: Outside attorneys are NOT authorized to prepare PERM Labor Certification, EB-1(2) Outstanding Professor/Researcher Petitions, EB-2 Petitions (based on PERM), or any other type of permanent residence application or petition requiring USC to sponsor the individual.

Signatures at the department level on these petitions/applications will cause the government to deny such requests. If the university becomes aware that an unauthorized petition/application is pending, we reserve the right to withdraw it.

However, individuals may decide to pursue self-sponsored permanent residence petitions such as EB-1(1) or EB-2 with a “National Interest Waiver” request independently of the university’s assistance. To that end, FSVS is happy to provide information for legal consumers on working with U.S. immigration attorneys to get the best result.