

STATE BAR OF TEXAS

Committee on Laws Relating to Immigration & Nationality

704 Rio Grande
Austin, TX 78701

(512) 477-7887

FAX (512) 479-6903

parsons@immigrate-usa.com



February 16, 2005

Ms. Edna Ramon Butts
Special Assistant Attorney General
Consumer Protection Division
Office of the Attorney General
P.O. Box 12548, MC 001
Austin, Texas 78711-2548

Dear Ms. Butts:

Our State Bar of Texas Committee on Laws Relating to Immigration and Nationality is writing you about concerns regarding a new process, which is to be implemented by the U.S. Department of Labor. On March 28, 2005, the Department of Labor (DOL) will institute a new process to conduct labor certification. "PERM" is the new labor certification system that will allow employers to file labor certification petitions online.

Our Committee was established in 1982 to study current and proposed laws pertaining to immigration and nationality and to make recommendations for improvements to these laws. The Committee is comprised of private immigration lawyers, an immigration judge, the director of a pro bono asylum project, accredited representatives of non-profit organizations recognized by the Board of Immigration Appeals, and various other private and governmental representatives.

We want to bring this new procedure called PERM to your attention. While this new law will allow many employers in the United States to apply electronically for prospective employees, our Committee members report that immigrant community members are being misinformed about the impact of this new law. Although this new process allows a U.S. employer to sponsor an eligible employee or candidate in an expedited fashion, many legal consultants, notarios and even attorneys may be presenting these new regulations as an amnesty or other form of legalization.

February 16, 2005
Page 2

PERM is only a change in the process for seeking a labor certification. It is not an amnesty or a new form of legalization. Our Committee would appreciate assistance from the Office of the Attorney General to educate consumers about this new law and make them aware of possible scams or false promises. Our Committee recommends that consumers utilize attorneys experienced with immigration laws and BIA-recognized agencies to seek clarification about our immigration laws.

Your consideration of this matter is appreciated.

Respectfully,

Paul Parsons
Committee Chair