

Law Offices of Linda W. Lau

A Professional Law Corporation

April 4, 2008



Dear ILW Practitioners:

It was a pleasure to participate in the EB-5 teleconference held on April 3, 2008, and it is my hope that the information shared was helpful to all who listened. As a follow-up to the teleconference and at ILW's request, please find below several web site addresses that might be useful in handling EB-5 cases:

- For the national average, go to the website of the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor: <http://www.bls.gov/cps/home.htm>
- For regional rates by census tract, go to your state workforce agency's website for statistics. In California, the web address to search for unemployment rates is <http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/cgi/dataanalysis/AreaSelection.asp?tableName=Labforce>.
- In California, the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency is the agency authorized to designate high unemployment areas. In May 2007 announced the areas that qualify as targeted employment areas in California in its May 2007 publication titled "Federal Investor Visa Program. This document is available at <http://www.labor.ca.gov/calBIS/cbfederalvisaprog.pdf>
- To determine whether an area qualifies for the \$500,000 investment option based on being a "rural area" (any area other than an area within a metropolitan statistical area or within the outer boundary of any city or town having a population of 20,000 or more, based on the most recent decennial census of the United States):
 - Check population data from the most recent census in 2000 at <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/>
 - A current list of metropolitan statistical areas can be found at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/bulletins/fy2007/b07-01.pdf>
- Contact information for EB-5 business plan writer whom we use: Nelson Lopez of Infinite Enterprises: (626) 823-4733. The company's web address is www.nelmarbusinesssolutions.com.

In addition to the above, I would like to mention the topic of "alternatives to EB-5," as it was a part of the teleconference agenda that could not be covered due to time limitations. I believe that as practitioners servicing investor clients, it is helpful to be aware of immigrant investor options outside the U.S. At times, individuals seeking to relocate outside of their home countries find the EB-5 route complicated and difficult, and would be happy to consider investment-based immigration to other developed countries with simpler programs. There are several excellent alternatives to EB-5. Two that I am familiar with are the Canada

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and United Kingdom (UK) immigrant investor programs. The Law Offices of Linda W. Lau, aka Global Immigration Law Group, has been designated by Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Capital (HSBC Capital) as the sole U.S. agent coordinator for its Canada and UK Immigrant Investor Programs.

Canada: Qualified applicants under the Canadian program can obtain permanent residency by depositing C\$400,000 with the Canadian government for 5 years. All of the money is returned at the end of the 5-year period. HSBC Capital offers financing options that enable applicants to satisfy the investment amount with as little as C\$120,000, which is not returned. The processing time can be shorter than for the I-526, for applicants can request, subject to Citizenship and Immigration Canada's discretion, that the application be processed in Buffalo, NY instead of the applicant's home country. The end result is permanent residency without conditions.

United Kingdom: The UK program allows qualified investors who have control over £1 million in the UK and invest in UK bonds or shares to reside in the UK. During the five years when the investment is maintained, investors may reside in the UK, which can lead to permanent resident status. Under HSBC Capital's program, applicants may invest a minimum of £170,000, which is not refundable, and have the rest of the required amount financed by HSBC Capital. Processing time under the UK program is short, currently about 6 months.

The above programs are only a few of the alternatives available to EB-5 candidates. I am enthusiastic about encouraging practitioners to grow in their knowledge of alternatives so that as legal professionals, we can all better service those who approach us for help. For those practitioners who are interested in becoming agents for HSBC Capital's Canada and UK immigrant investor programs, you are welcome to call me at (213) 830-9933 or email me at linda@lindalau.net.

Best Wishes,
Linda W. Lau, Esq.