

Robinson+ColeImmigration

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Annual Diversity Visa Lottery Now Available!

The Diversity Immigrant Visa Lottery provides 50,000 immigrant visas each fiscal year to natives of countries with low immigration to the U.S. over the preceding five years. Anyone selected in this random lottery is given the opportunity to apply for permanent residence. Individuals granted permanent residence are authorized to live and work permanently in the United States and to bring their spouses and minor children as permanent residents. Please feel free to share this information with foreign national employees, as **registration for the 2019 Diversity Visa (DV-2019) is now open. Specifically, due to a technical glitch, this year the Lottery opened on October 18, 2017, at 12:00 noon, Eastern Standard Time (EST) and will remain open until November 22, 2017, at 12:00 noon, Eastern Standard Time (EST).** If an entry was submitted prior to October 18, 2017, it will need to be resubmitted.

WHO CAN APPLY

This year, the DV-2019 Lottery is open to natives of most countries **except** for the following “high-admission” countries that are **excluded**: Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, China (mainland born), Colombia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Haiti, India, Jamaica, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, South Korea, United Kingdom (except Northern Ireland) and its dependent territories, and Vietnam. Individuals born in Hong Kong SAR, Macau SAR, and Taiwan are eligible.

The DV-2019 Lottery also requires that applicants possess either a high school education, or its equivalent, or two years of experience within the past five years in a qualifying occupation.

HOW TO APPLY

Applicants for the DV-2019 Lottery must submit a DS-5501 Electronic Diversity Visa Entry Form (E-DV). Information regarding how to apply for the DV-2019 is available at:

<https://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/immigrate/diversity-visa/instructions.html>. There is no fee to enter the diversity visa lottery program.

Given the heavy demand, the Department of State encourages applicants to apply as early within the enrollment period as possible. As noted above, applications will not be accepted after 12:00 noon EST on November 22, 2017.

It is very important that the applicant submits all required information, including digital photographs; otherwise, the entry is disqualified. Recent photographs of the following people must be submitted electronically with the Electronic Diversity Visa Entry Form: the applicant, the applicant’s spouse (including same-sex spouse), and each unmarried child under 21 years of age at the time of the electronic entry (including natural children, legally adopted children, and stepchildren). A photo of a child who is already a U.S. citizen or permanent resident is not required.

Please feel free to share this information with foreign national employees.

We assist clients with a wide range of immigration issues. If you have any questions about the content in this legal update, contact one of Robinson+Cole's [Immigration Group](#) members below:

[Megan R. Naughton](#) | [Joshua S. Mirer](#) | [Lauren M. Sigg](#) | [Jennifer L. Shanley](#)

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