

## *Glossary of Terms*

**Alien** A person who is present within the U.S. but who is not a U.S. citizen.

**Legal Alien** A person who is present within the U.S. with the approval of the U.S. government. There are several categories of legal aliens, including: immigrants, students, tourists, temporary workers and refugees who have been granted temporary or permanent asylum.

**Illegal/Undocumented Alien** A person who is present within the U.S. without the approval of the U.S. government. This category includes persons who were once lawfully admitted for a period of time, but have overstayed that time period; e.g., tourists, students or temporary workers.

**Asylum** Legal permission to live in a country given by the government to people fleeing danger or persecution in their original homeland.

**Detainee** An alien in the custody of government authorities who is waiting for officials to decide if he or she may stay in the country or if he or she will be forced to leave.

**E-Verify** The internet based program, established in 1997 as the Basic Pilot Program, compares information from the Employment Eligibility Verification Form/I-9 to data from U.S. Government records.

**Green Card** A slang term often used to describe the permit that indicates that an immigrant has the status of a Legal Permanent Resident (LPR). There really is no such thing as a “green” card.

**Guest workers** Persons who travel to a country with much more preferred job prospects than the one in which they reside.

**Guest Worker Plan** A legislative proposal to give migrant workers, potentially with their families, an opportunity to come to the U.S. for a period of time to work legally.

**H-2A** Temporary visa for seasonal agricultural workers.

**Immigrant** A person who comes to a country where he or she intends to settle permanently and to obtain citizenship.

**Illegal Immigrant** A person living in a country without the permission of its government.

**Immigration Authorities.** With the creation of the Department of Homeland Security, the work formerly done by the Immigration and Naturalization Service has been transferred to three government agencies that administer U.S. immigration law and procedures.

- ⤴ The U.S. Citizen and Immigration Service (CIS) determines who may enter the U.S. for the purpose of becoming a naturalized U.S. citizen.
- ⤴ US Customs and Immigration Enforcement (ICE) takes action against persons not authorized to be inside the U.S. as a result of illegal entry or overstaying the terms of their visas.
- ⤴ U.S. Customs and Border Patrol controls the U.S. border.

**Migrant Worker** A person that must travel from place to place to find work.

**Piece Work** Any type of employment where a worker is paid a fixed rate for each unit produced or action performed regardless of time.

**Work Based Immigration** If a company cannot find someone in the US to fill a position it is allowed to seek a qualified person outside the U.S.