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## Online immigration forum files suit against former INS

By IndUS News Wire

ARLINGTON, Va. - Attorney Rajiv Khanna's online immigration forum immigration.com has filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Immigration Service (formerly known as Immigration and Naturalization Service) challenging delays in the processing of some green card applications.

Immigration.com and nine individuals have filed the suit alleging extraordinary delays in their employment-based U.S. lawful permanent residence.

The complaint states that the process of obtaining green cards has become increasingly longer over the past several years. The delays in the process have now come to a point where in states like New York and California, it can take six years or more to obtain a green card, which, in the interim, leads to dread and insecurity for the employee.

The complaint also states that in most cases when the employee loses his job, the U.S. Immigration Service permits not even one day of grace period to arrange for passage out of the U.S., which is a long way from the constitutional ideal of "... pursuit of happiness."

"Additionally, for labor certification-based cases, which form a large majority of employment-based applications, any substantial career advancement is unwise. A promotion leads to nullification of the entire green card process, thereby necessitating starting the process all over again - resetting the six-year countdown back to zero and making the employee continue at the same level year after year," the complaint said.

Khanna, an immigration attorney, launched Immigration.com about 10 years ago to promote his business and the field. The site is as a forum for information and discussion on immigration-related issues.

Earlier this year, the website also published online petitions related to immigration. The one related to delays in green card processing was put up in Sept. 2003. Specifically, the petition sought to increase the priority and resources given to process employment-based I-485 applications.

Among the petition's suggestions were: automating the name check and security check procedures, speeding up the time it takes to validate fingerprints (currently 15 months) and eliminating the annual renewal of employment authorization.

It also asked the Department of Homeland Security to appoint some officials to exclusively work on old cases, especially those filed prior to the current processing month.

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