

## Immigration E-news

January 25, 2008

### Michigan Driver's License - Important Notice

The Secretary of State's office in Michigan has just issued new requirements for initial applications for state driver's licenses that are effective January 22, 2008. Under the new requirements, only U.S. Citizens or U.S. Permanent Residents ("Green Card Holders") are eligible to apply for a Michigan Driver's License. Consequently, foreign national employees who are in the U.S. in legal, work authorized status, such as L-1, H-1B or TN status, cannot apply for a driver's license in the state of Michigan. We are monitoring legislation that would permit residents who are in the U.S. legally, although temporarily, to apply for a driver's license and this would cover most work authorized statuses.

This rule concerns only initial applications. Procedures for renewals of driver's licenses should be released soon by the Secretary of State's office. This is definitely not good news for Michigan's economy as it presents yet another obstacle to attract foreign investment and talent.

The following link to the Michigan Secretary of State's website will provide you with a list of documentation needed to apply for a Michigan driver's license or state identification card:

[http://www.michigan.gov/documents/sos/Applying\\_for\\_lic\\_or\\_ID\\_SOS\\_428\\_222146\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/sos/Applying_for_lic_or_ID_SOS_428_222146_7.pdf)

For more information on this development, or any immigration matter, please contact your regular Butzel attorney, or a member of Butzel Long's Immigration Practice Group listed below.

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