



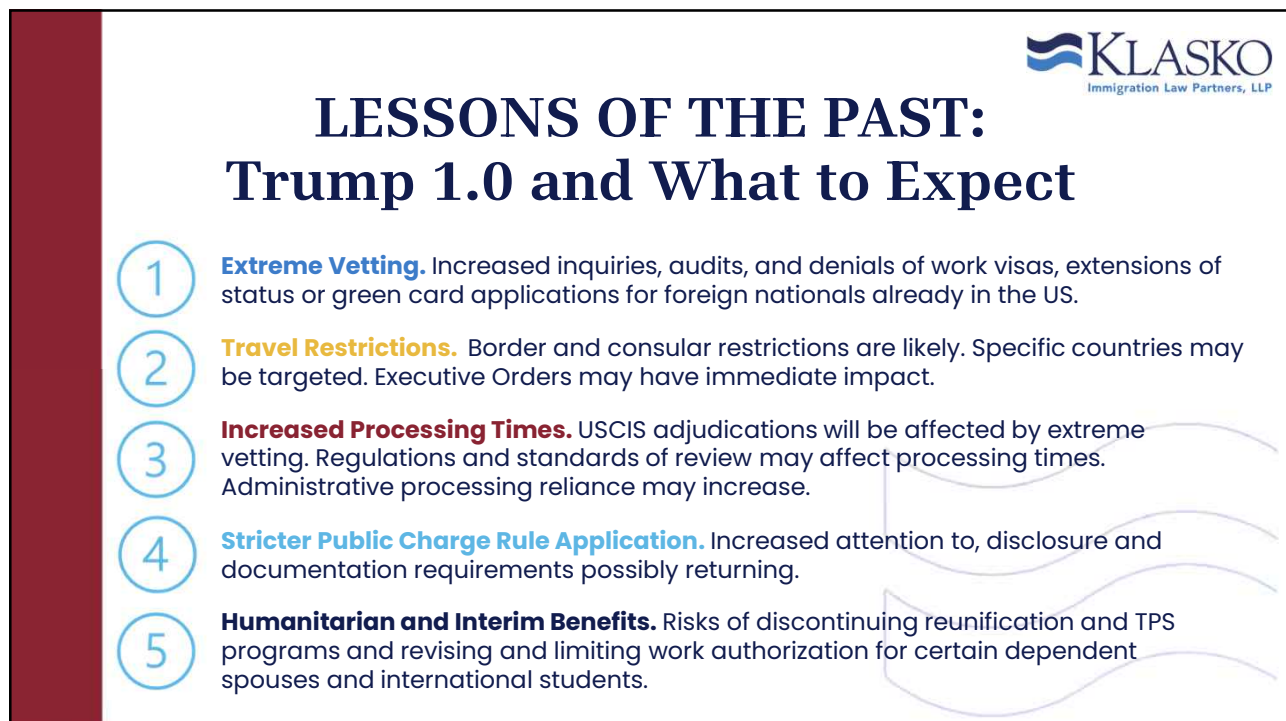



# Immigration 2025: *Preparing for a New Administration*

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## LESSONS OF THE PAST: Trump 1.0 and What to Expect

- 1 **Extreme Vetting.** Increased inquiries, audits, and denials of work visas, extensions of status or green card applications for foreign nationals already in the US.
- 2 **Travel Restrictions.** Border and consular restrictions are likely. Specific countries may be targeted. Executive Orders may have immediate impact.
- 3 **Increased Processing Times.** USCIS adjudications will be affected by extreme vetting. Regulations and standards of review may affect processing times. Administrative processing reliance may increase.
- 4 **Stricter Public Charge Rule Application.** Increased attention to, disclosure and documentation requirements possibly returning.
- 5 **Humanitarian and Interim Benefits.** Risks of discontinuing reunification and TPS programs and revising and limiting work authorization for certain dependent spouses and international students.

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## Extreme Vetting

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- What is it?
- How could it manifest among USCIS filed cases?
  - Site visits / Adjudicatory Standards
- How could it affect applications at the border?
  - Green card holders / business visitors / NIV applicants / Purity Tests
- How could it affect consular visa applications?
  - Administrative Processing / Appointment Wait Times / NIEs / Purity Tests

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## Travel Restrictions

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- Potentially Available through Executive Order Action
- Small chance of successfully challenging in court
- Country-specific visa issuance bans
- National Interest Exemptions for Economy-Focused Bans

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## Increase in Processing Times

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- Disallowing Green Card filings in backlogged categories and slowdown of priority dates movement.
- Non-immigrant visa applications delays due to increase in requests for evidence and denials.
  - Note on F-1 Change of Status and Discretionary Relief Filings.
- Elimination of visa interview waivers and limitation on appointment availability.

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## Public Charge Scrutiny

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- Potential need for greater evidentiary showing.
- Increased attention to benefit usage, income and socioeconomic factors.

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## Humanitarian and Interim Benefits

### Immediately endangered programs:

- TPS designations
- Humanitarian parole programs stemming the Uniting for Ukraine model
- DACA
- Interim benefits for Asylum seekers

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## Timeline of Expected Changes

Immediate	Short-Term	Long-Term
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install policy experts who support restrictive immigration policies and firing those who don't</li> <li>• Cut off or redirect funding to security-related functions, rather than adjudicative and customer service functions at in-country service centers and consulates across the globe</li> <li>• Eliminate deference to prior adjudications—everything is up for grabs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct agencies to apply higher standards, increase documentary requirements, issue more RFES, and deny more cases</li> <li>• Delay benefit approvals by reclassifying adjudicators as "national security sensitive" positions, requiring USICS to take the majority of its case processing capacity off line for at least 12 months</li> <li>• Prohibit new filings in backlogged green card categories</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eliminating work authorization not explicitly listed in the INA, which includes F-1 OPT, H-4, and EAD during pending I-485.</li> <li>• Scrutinize differences in position requirements (and offered wages) between temporary work visas and green card applications for the same job</li> <li>• Replacing employer sponsorship process with a points-based system – "Merit-based immigration"</li> </ul>

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- Reconsider travel needs after Inauguration Day and consider renewing visas and status before Inauguration Day.
- Evaluate visa status options holistically.
- File extensions of status, adjustments, and naturalization Application as soon as eligible.
- Evaluate the risks of requesting premium processing (case specific).

## How Can You Prepare?


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## Questions?



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# For Further Information




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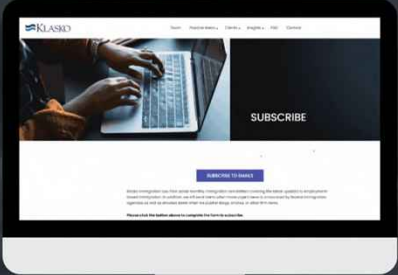
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REQUEST: Karuna, Natalia, Maria**

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**Karuna Simbeck**  
*Partner*

**Karuna Simbeck** focuses her practice on U.S. employment and family-based immigration, partnering closely with her clients to provide custom immigration solutions. Karuna manages the firm's individual case unit and is part of the firm's EB-5 team.

As an immigrant who has personal experience with the U.S. Immigration Service, Karuna has worked extensively with individual and corporate clients on a wide range of immigration matters. She counsels on corporate immigration, including nonimmigrant visas and permanent residence. Her experience also includes supporting clients' applications for naturalization, re-entry permits, and various family-based immigration matters. Karuna also has significant experience with the EB-5 Green Card process, having handled the preparation of hundreds of I-526 Petitions for clients from several countries, including India, South Africa, Philippines, Singapore, Vietnam, Turkey, United Kingdom, and China.

Karuna also has extensive experience in business immigration and permanent residency through the PERM certification process. L-1A visa and EB-1 visas.

Karuna received her Master's in Law Degree (LLM) from Temple University in Philadelphia, PA and her Bachelor's in Law (LLB) from Government Law College, Mumbai, India.

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**Natalia Gouz**  
*Senior Associate*

**Natalia Gouz** is a Senior Associate providing strategic and comprehensive immigration solutions for her corporate clients. Her experience is far-reaching on an array of immigrant and nonimmigrant matters ranging from a high-volume of routine cases to complex issues requiring creative solutions.

Natalia has considerable experience in obtaining a diverse roster of nonimmigrant visas, including H-1B, L-1, TN, O-1, E-1 and E-2, and E-3. She also has significant experience handling immigrant worker petitions (green cards) for professionals, advanced-degree individuals, multinational managers and executives, as well as skilled workers. During her years of practice, Natalia has acquired in-depth knowledge of the PERM Alien Labor Certification process, having successfully secured Labor Certifications from the U.S. Department of Labor for her clients. Natalia also enjoys working with individual clients on marriage and family-based immigration matters and through the naturalization process.

Natalia is a graduate of New York Law School (J.D.), where she served as Staff Editor for the New York Law School Law Review. Natalia received her Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Pace University.

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**Maria Mihaylova**  
*Senior Associate*

**Maria Mihaylova** is a Senior Associate with the Firm's Philadelphia office and works closely with both corporate and individual clients on a wide range of business and family-based immigration matters.

Maria has considerable experience processing and obtaining employment-based non-immigrant visas for professional employees, individuals of extraordinary ability and foreign entrepreneurs alike. She has successfully processed a wide range of visa matters involving H-1B, H-1B1, H-3, E-3, E-1/E-2 investor visas, L-1A/L-1B, J-1, TN, O-1, and P-1 visas.

With respect to immigrant petitions (green cards), Maria has successfully worked with multinational executives and managers, professors and researchers, and people of extraordinary and exceptional abilities alike. She has assisted married and engaged couples through their respective family-based processes. She possesses a comprehensive knowledge of the PERM Alien Labor Certification process and regularly advises and works with corporate clients to ensure regulatory compliance throughout the process.

Maria received her Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree from Seton Hall University School of Law in 2012, where she served as an Editor for the Circuit Review, graduating magna cum laude, Order of the Coif. In 2008, Maria also received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social and Behavioral Sciences, summa cum laude, from Seton Hall University.

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