

## Immigration Updates: October 2025

Workshops - 5

Applications - 84

Consultations - 24

Trainings -0

Completed: 9/13-14: L663; Asylum + Consultation Workshop; Minneapolis, MN  
 9/17: L227; Virtual UCAN Training  
 9/28: L227; UCAN Workshop; Louisville, KY  
 10/04: L1546; UCAN Workshop; Chicago, IL  
 10/11: L7; UCAN Workshop; Greeley, CO  
 10/25: L770; UCAN + Consultation Workshop; Huntington Park, CA  
 10/29-30: L1846 Virtual Workshop

Upcoming: 11/08: L324; Consultation Workshop; Buena Park, CA

### New Naturalization Civics Test

#### **Who does this affect?**

Anyone who files Form N-400 (Application for Naturalization) **on or after October 20, 2025**.

#### **What's Changing?**

##### **1. New Test Format:**

- The new 2025 civics test will be oral.
- You will be asked 20 questions.
- You must answer at least 12 correctly to pass.

##### **2. Question Bank:**

- The number of study questions will increase from 100 to 128.

##### **3. Pass/Fail Rule:**

- The officer will stop the test once:
  - You answer 12 correctly (pass), or
  - You answer 9 incorrectly (fail)

#### **Special Rule for Older Applicants:**

- If you are 65 years or older and have been a permanent resident for 20+ years, you will still take the shorter test:
  - Only 10 questions, and you must answer 6 correctly to pass.

#### **What to Do Now:**

- Let members know about the changes if they plan to apply on or after October 20, 2025.
- Share updated study materials ([128 questions](#); [Study Guide](#)).

### USCIS Requires Electronic Payments

#### **What's Changing?**

Starting **October 29, 2025**, USCIS will only accept electronic payments for all applications, petitions, and requests.

#### **What This Means:**

- Paper checks and money orders will no longer be accepted after October 28, 2025 (except in very limited situations).
- You must pay using one of these two forms:
  - [Form G-1650](#) – for ACH debit (bank account) payments
  - [Form G-1450](#) – for credit card payments

#### **What to Do Now:**

- Let members know about this change if they plan to file with USCIS on or after October 29, 2025.

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- Help members prepare to make electronic payments (set up bank or credit card access).
- Make sure members know how to complete Form G-1650 or G-1450, depending on their payment method.

### Appeals Court Rules in Favor of the President

#### **What Happened?**

The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in favor of the President in a case involving the deployment of National Guard troops to U.S. cities for ICE enforcement.

#### **Key Points:**

- The decision was written by two judges appointed during President Trump's first term: Judge Ryan Nelson and Judge Bridget Bade.
- The ruling supports President Trump's previous actions to send National Guard troops to cities like Los Angeles, Washington D.C., and Chicago.
- The President stated these deployments were intended to support ICE agents and reduce crime.

#### **What Did the Court Say?**

In its opinion, the court said:

"After considering the record at this preliminary stage, we conclude that it is likely that the President lawfully exercised his statutory authority."

#### **Why It Matters:**

This ruling may strengthen the government's authority to deploy federal troops to support immigration enforcement at the local level. While the case is still in early stages, it could impact future immigration-related enforcement actions in other cities.

### New Trends in Asylum Application Denials in EOIR (I-589 Pretermission)

#### **What is Pretermission?**

Pretermission means the immigration judge denies a request for asylum without holding a hearing.

#### **What's Happening?**

- EOIR (Executive Office for Immigration Review) is encouraging judges to use pretermission more often.
- This means more asylum applications are being denied before the applicant has a chance to speak in court.

#### **Why Are Cases Being Denied?**

Practitioners are seeing more pretermissions for the following reasons:

1. Incomplete asylum applications
2. Failure to state a clear claim for asylum
3. Applicant is subject to an Asylum Cooperative Agreement (sent to another country to seek asylum)

#### **What Is a "Complete" I-589 Form?**

To avoid pretermission, the application must be:

- **Fully completed** – every question must have a specific and responsive answer
- **Descriptive** – especially in the sections where the applicant explains why they are afraid to return to their country
- **Detailed** – include facts, names, dates, and clearly explain the reason for seeking asylum

#### **What to Do:**

- Help members carefully review their I-589 before filing
- Make sure every section is filled out clearly and completely
- Encourage members to consult an immigration attorney if they are unsure how to explain their claim



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### **New Changes to Work Permit Renewals: DHS Ends Automatic Extensions**

#### **What Changed?**

As of October 30, 2025, immigrants applying to renew their work permits (Employment Authorization Documents or EADs) will no longer receive automatic extensions while their renewal applications are pending.

#### **Who Is Affected?**

Most immigrants who file to renew their EAD on or after October 30, 2025 will be affected by this new rule.

There are limited exceptions, including:

- Certain Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders
- Others protected by law or a special notice published in the Federal Register

#### **Why Is This Happening?**

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) says this change is to improve:

- Vetting and background checks before granting work authorization
- Detection of fraud or security risks

DHS wants to ensure that all immigrants requesting to work in the U.S. are re-screened regularly before receiving a work permit.

#### **What You Need to Know:**

- Automatic 540-day extensions will no longer apply for most EAD renewals after Oct. 30, 2025
- If your EAD expires and you haven't received the new one, you may not be able to work during that time
- Plan ahead! You can file to renew your EAD up to 180 days before it expires

#### **What to Do:**

- Encourage members to file their EAD renewal applications as early as possible, ideally 5–6 months before their current EAD expires
- Double-check application completeness to avoid delays
- Consult an immigration attorney if unsure how the new rule applies to a specific case

**Note:** This rule does not affect EADs that were automatically extended before October 30, 2025.