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**Tidwell, Swaim & Associates, PC**  
*U.S. Immigration and Nationality Law*  
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**Issue: 15**

### **Movement to Expand OPT by 17 Months**

On March 31, 2008, ICE submitted to OMB for review an interim final rule titled "Extending Period for Optional Practical Training for 17 Months for Qualified F-1 Students." In general, OMB has up to 90 days to review such initiatives and either approve them for publication in the Federal Register, send them back for revision, or reject them.

### **USCIS Now Projects Shorter Naturalization Application Processing Times**

A 4/2/08 USCIS News Release announced that the agency is now projecting a shorter average processing time of 13 -15 months for naturalization applications than it was six months ago. Over 1.4 million naturalization applications were filed last year- 460,000 in July alone.

### **USCIS News Release Announces Plan to Eliminate FBI Name Check Backlog**

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A 4/2/08 USCIS News Release announced a USCIS/FBI joint plan to eliminate the backlog of name checks pending with the FBI by adding more staff, resources and new business processes. The plan's goal is to process 98% of all name checks within 30 days by June 2009.

Founder

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## **DHS Creates E-mail Address to Report Unlawful Conduct by USCIS Employees**

Office of Inspector General posted a notice on the USCIS website with an e-mail address to be used to report misconduct, wasteful activities, and allegations of civil rights or civil liberties abuse by USCIS employees. To make a report, call 1-800-323-8603 or email [DHSOIGHOTLINE@DHS.GOV](mailto:DHSOIGHOTLINE@DHS.GOV).

Languages:

Spanish  
French  
Russian  
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Cantonese  
Korean  
Fukkiense  
Hakkense

To schedule a consultation, please call our office at 972/385-7900 or email our receptionist at [cng@tsalaw.com](mailto:cng@tsalaw.com).

(Please feel free to forward our information to any of your family and friends!)

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