

I have been an immigration attorney in private practice for over 15 years and am writing to voice my concern about the proposed fee increases. While I have severe reservations about many of the proposed fee increases, I want to direct my attention at this point to the serious impediment that adjustment application fee increases will pose to families with multiple applicants. If the term family values has any meaning, there should be a cap to fees paid for household members immigrating together. Secondly, it is unfair to represent that a consolidated fee of \$905 includes employment authorization and advance parole. In many cases applicants cannot, because of their immigration situation, travel without jeopardizing their eligibility to adjust. It is unfair to represent that they are getting a benefit that they cannot use. Thirdly, applications for employment authorization are being processed more slowly and adjustment interviews scheduled more quickly in immediate relative cases so that typically the EAD is usable for 60 days. In fact, applicants are discouraged from seeking a benefit that they cannot use for any significant period of time.

Finally, I cannot support naturalization application fee increases that in fact would discourage permanent residents from seeking to become fully participating citizens of our country. It is an unfortunate signal to send that "you can become citizen if you can afford it."

Thank you for your attention.

Very truly yours,
Judith Michaels Morrow