

# LAW OFFICES OF ADRIEN MEDVEI



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## GREEN CARD LOTTERY FOR 2009 FISCAL YEAR

By: Adrien Medvei, Esq.

It is green card lottery time again. Entries must be submitted electronically between Wednesday, Noon (EST), October 3, 2007 and Sunday, Noon (EST) of December 2, 2007. The green card lottery (officially called Diversity Immigrant Program) allocates 50,000 permanent resident visas (green cards) to individuals who are from countries with low rates of immigration to the United States. The green card lottery program is a free program offered by the United States government.

### General Information:

The green card lottery program is normally open to legal individuals in the United States (maybe here on an F-1, H1-B), or to individuals who are currently outside of the United States. Persons in the United States who are out of status may only use the benefits of a green card lottery selection if they have 245(i) protection through a family based immigrant case (filed Form I-130), an employment based immigrant case (filed Form I-140) or labor certification all filed before April 30, 2001. Otherwise, individuals illegally in the United States who are selected in the green card lottery process would not be able to use the benefits and apply for adjustment of status in the United States.

### Requirements:

1. Only those who are natives of qualifying countries may submit applications for the green card lottery. For the 2009 green card lottery the nationals of the following countries (sorted by region) **do not** qualify and **may not** submit a green card lottery application: **Asian Region:** Natives of China [mainland-born], India, Pakistan, South Korea, Philippines, and Vietnam. Although natives of the Hong Kong SAR, Macau SAR and Taiwan do qualify. **European Region:** United Kingdom and dependent territories, Poland and Russia. United Kingdom dependent territories are: Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Turks and Caicos Islands. Note that for purposes of the diversity program only, natives of Northern Ireland are treated separately and do qualify. **North American Region:** Natives of Canada and Mexico do not qualify. **South American Region:** Natives of Colombia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Haiti, Jamaica, and Mexico are not eligible. **Individuals born in countries not listed above are eligible to apply for the green card lottery.**

2. Only those who meet either the educational or training requirements may submit applications for the green card lottery. **Educational requirement** to be met: high school education or its equivalent, this is completion of a 12-year course of elementary and secondary education. **Training requirement** to be met: two years of work experience within the past five years in an occupation requiring at least two years of training or experience to perform. (The US Department of Labor O\*Net Online database will be used to determine qualifying work experience.)

This year just like last year you may only apply through the internet. No paper applications will be accepted. Photograph submissions must adhere to the State Department's strict guidelines. For further analysis whether or not you are eligible to apply for the green card lottery contact our office at (213)984-4013. Every year thousands of applications are rejected by the Department of State because they do not adhere to submission regulations, such as submission of the incorrect photographs. If you want to make sure that your application is submitted following all the requirements and in a timely fashion you may retain the assistance of our office. We charge \$50 for the handling of individual applications, and \$75 for two applications within one family (e.g. husband/wife). As we mentioned above participation in the Diversity Visa Program is otherwise free. If you decide to retain our office you have a couple of choices:

1. You may complete the online questionnaire, pay the handling fee (\$50 or \$75) with your credit card online and send to our office a 2 inch by 2 inch color photograph(s) with your name and telephone number (or names and telephone numbers of all applicants) clearly written on the back of the photograph. If you chose you may email your photograph(s) as a jpeg image to our office with your name and telephone number written in the body of the email. Please follow these jpeg requirements for digital emailed photos: Maximum image file size 62,500 bytes. Image resolution: 320 pixels high by 240 pixels wide. Image color depth: 24-bit color or 8-bit grayscale

2. You may download and complete in Microsoft word format the green card lottery questionnaire(s) and either email it to us as an attachment or print it and mail it to our office. You may send us your photograph(s) by using any of the options listed in 1. above.
3. You may call our office and either request the questionnaire(s), or come to our office and complete the questionnaire(s) by bringing a 2 inch by 2 inch photograph of yourself and all other applicants if applicable.
4. We submit the green card lottery to all our current clients for no fee. Any of our clients interested, please follow the picture and submission guidelines and contact the office.

**Additional Information:**

To get additional information regarding the 2009 green card lottery or to complete your questionnaire online please visit our website at [www.medvei-immigration.com](http://www.medvei-immigration.com).

This article was prepared by the Law Offices of Adrien Medvei, Attorney at Law for informational purposes only and therefore, it should not be considered legal advice. With your immigration questions or independent evaluation of your case, please contact the Law Offices of Adrien Medvei, 3055 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 900, Los Angeles, CA 90010. For Thai language customer service please call (213) 984-4013, or (818) 495-4102 extension 102. You can also reach us toll free at (866)731-1067 or via our web site at [www.medvei-immigration.com](http://www.medvei-immigration.com).