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December 8, 2021

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## Welcome to the T&R Newsletter

December 2021

This month we discuss international travel Covid-19 testing requirements, travel bans in response to the Omicron Variant, EB-5 regional center program update, as well as Trow & Rahal's holiday schedule, new staff, and monthly webinar.

### International Travel Covid-19 Test Requirement

The CDC has changed the testing requirement to return to the United States after international travel. As of December 2, 2021, all passengers 2 years of age or older who are boarding a flight coming from a foreign country to the United States need to receive a Covid-19 test no more than one day before travel to the United States, regardless of vaccination status. Previously, it had been announced that vaccinated people could get a test within 72 hours and unvaccinated people had to test with 24 hours. Now everyone must test and show a negative result within the one day before boarding a flight to the United States. Example: If a person has a flight today at 5pm, the person can show a negative test taken any time the day before. It does not have to be within 24 hours but must be no more than one day before travel.

Alternatively, a person can show that they have recently recovered from Covid-19. This will require a letter from a licensed healthcare provider or a public health official indicating that the person is cleared for travel, along with a positive Covid-19 viral test result on a sample taken within 90 days before the flight's departure from a foreign country.

**Reminder:** The October 25, 2021, White House proclamation required all noncitizen, nonimmigrant travelers to the United States to be vaccinated against Covid-19 with limited exceptions. Travelers will need to show proof of vaccination to airlines. This vaccination requirement does not apply to U.S. citizens, permanent residents, or those traveling on immigrant visas (entering the United States for the first time as an immigrant). It also does not apply to children under the age of 18 and other limited exceptions enumerated in the proclamation.

[If you have any questions on traveling to the United States from a foreign country, please see website of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\).](#)

### Travel Bans Implemented in Response to Omicron Variant

The White House issued a proclamation on November 26, 2021, suspending and limiting the entry for certain immigrants and nonimmigrants who were physically present in the following countries: Republic of Botswana, Kingdom of Eswatini, Kingdom of Lesotho, Republic of Malawi; Republic of Mozambique; Republic of Namibia; Republic of South Africa; and Republic of Zimbabwe.

These travel bans do not apply to: Permanent Residents, Spouses of U.S. citizens or permanent residents, parents of U.S. citizens or permanent residents who are under age 21 and unmarried; siblings of U.S. citizens or permanent residents who are under age 21 and unmarried; and other classes of people as identified in the proclamation.

### EB-5 Regional Center Program Update

Unfortunately, the extension of the regional center EB-5 program was not included in the stopgap spending bill approved by President Biden to avoid a government shutdown and fund the federal government through February 18, 2022. This extends the lapse in the EB-5 regional center

when available.

### **THE OFFICE OF TROW & RAHAL WILL BE CLOSED FROM DEC 24 – DEC 31**

We wish to advise all our clients that our office will be closed starting December 24<sup>th</sup> and we will reopen on Monday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>. We do this to give our staff a well-deserved break to rest, recharge and rejuvenate. We will have someone available during this time to answer phones in case there is a true emergency. We will work with clients before this break to move cases forward that need to be filed before the end of the year.

### **The T&R Team Expands**

During 2021 Trow & Rahal has hired additional attorneys and staff to continue to exceed client expectations! Trow & Rahal has welcomed new attorneys, paralegals, and legal assistants. We have welcomed the following attorneys to our team in 2021:



**Elizabeth Quinn (Shareholder):** Elizabeth is a nationally recognized immigration attorney who joined Trow & Rahal as a Shareholder in May 2021. We are excited to have Elizabeth join the firm with her more than 25 years of experience in business immigration law. She has expertise in advising companies and individuals on U.S. visa options, compliance and developing U.S. immigration strategies. She has distinct experience with cases involving Extraordinary Ability (O-1 and EB-1A), EB-2 National Interest Waivers, and L-1A Intracompany Transfers, E-2 investors and J-1 Visas. In addition, she handles family immigration matters and naturalization applications.

Elizabeth received her J.D. degree from The George Washington University Law School, and her B.A. degree in Government, with a minor in French, from the College of William & Mary. She is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) where she served on the AILA State Department Liaison Committee from 2009 – 2011, and she is now a member of AILA's Rome District Chapter which focuses on consular issues in Europe.



**Stef Woods (Attorney):** Stef joined Trow & Rahal with over seven years of experience practicing immigration and nationality law in the private and pro bono sectors. She has in-depth experience and knowledge with U.S. business immigration law with a focus on writing intensive projects including EB-1 petitions for immigrants of extraordinary ability and L-1 petitions for intracompany transfers.

Before joining Trow & Rahal, Stef was a faculty member at American University in Washington, DC. During her tenure in academia, she received the university-wide Teaching with Technology Award and the Dean's Award for Exceptional Innovation in Teaching. Stef has been featured by numerous media outlets and publications, including The Associated Press, NPR, Univision, Forbes, Agence France-Presse, and USA Today.

She received her Juris Doctorate degree from the American University Washington College of Law and a Master's of Liberal Studies in International Affairs from Georgetown University. Stef earned her Bachelor's degree from Wellesley College with a double major in Political Science and English. She is a member of the Maryland State Bar Association.

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a paralegal for a large immigration firm. Based on this experience and his family's immigrant history, Bademba knew that he wanted to become an Immigration Attorney. In 2019, he earned his J.D. from Catholic University's Columbus School of Law. He earlier earned a Dual Bachelor's degree in English Literature and History from the University of Pittsburgh.

Prior to joining Trow & Rahal, Bademba served as an Associate Attorney at a small immigration firm, focusing on employment and family-based matters. At Trow & Rahal, Bademba is dedicated to providing exceptional client service in an evolving and exciting legal landscape. He is a member of the Maryland bar, Montgomery County Bar Association and American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA).

Bademba grew up in Montgomery County, Maryland and played lacrosse in high school. Outside of the office, he enjoys spending time with his dog, reading nonfiction, and watching sports. He's a big fan of the Wizards, Nationals and DC United teams.

### TROW & RAHAL WEBINARS – THIRD FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH

Please join Trow & Rahal's monthly webinar from 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm EST on the third Friday (usually) of each month. The format of these webinars will include a brief update of any changes in immigration policies, as well as an overview of one important immigration issue or visa category.

**December 17 webinar:** This webinar will be held on Friday, December 17 and will provide immigration updates, updates on vaccine and testing requirements, and an open forum for questions.

[Register Here](#)

Trow & Rahal will continue to provide updates to keep our readers apprised of changes on travel requirements, visa issuance at U.S. Consulates, and all other immigration related matters.



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