

IMMIGRANT EXPERIENCE

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Tips for non-citizens traveling outside U.S.

It's summertime, which means many immigrants have lots of questions related to travel outside of the United States. Navid Dayzad, an immigration lawyer with the San Francisco law firm of Weaver & Schlenger, recently conducted a seminar on the subject.

Here is a summary of Dayzad's advice for immigrants traveling this summer:

■ Present proper documents for re-entering the United States. Consult with an attorney on this before leaving the United States. Recent rule changes in immigration and the emphasis on security have made travel a complicated affair. In the economic downturn, many Silicon Valley companies have changed their names. Immigrant workers who travel for such companies on work visas should be prepared to present documents that show they still work for the same company.

■ Check your form I-94. Non-immigrant travelers to the United States receive an I-94 upon arrival at a port. The traveler should make sure the immigration inspector at the airport notes the proper validity date and status in which the individual is admitted, Dayzad said.

■ Do not travel while your non-immigrant visa petition is pending. International travel can cause complications, and it is better not to travel while your petition is pending, Dayzad said.

■ Revalidate your visa. Most non-immigrants require a visa to enter the United States. If you are eligible, it is better to renew your visa by mail while you're in the United States.