

## Overview

**Adjustment Of Immigration Status** Adjustment of status under § 245 of the Immigration and Naturalization Act (INA) is a program that allows several categories of nonimmigrants who were not in the United States legally or who were in the U.S. legally, but temporarily, to "adjust" their status to a person legally in the United States and admitted for permanent residence. This program ended in April 2001, but it is still available to nonimmigrants whose visa petition or application for labor certification was filed on or before April 30, 2001.

**Controlling Alien Admission - Nonimmigrants - Visa Types - Intracompany Transferees - Temporariness and Intent** A nonimmigrant visa is needed to work temporarily in the United States. Several types of visas are available for this purpose. One type of temporary worker recognized by U.S. law is an intracompany transferee, designated as an "L" visa.

**Alien Rights - Political Rights** When an alien enters the United States, he or she obtains various rights. Political rights is one area of rights, however, which is substantially restricted for aliens. Nonresident aliens have virtually no rights to participate in the United States political process. Some resident aliens, on the other hand, do acquire certain rights. In addition, political rights are generally more restricted at the federal level than at the state or local level.

**Ellis Island** Ellis Island as an Immigration Port

**Visa Types - Foreign Media, Press, Radio - I** Aliens who are members of the foreign media may be eligible for foreign media visas, designated by the letter "I." Eligibility for an I visa turns on the nature of the alien's job and the purpose of his or her trip to the United States. The procedures used in issuing media visas depend upon the procedures the alien's country uses to issue similar visas to U.S. media representatives.