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Immigration

DHS Implements, Expands Work Authorization for Liberian DED

Legal Update

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This article was prepared with the assistance of ABIL, the Alliance of Business Immigration Lawyers, of which Loan Huynh, Fredrikson Immigration Department Chair, is a member.

The Department of Homeland Security plans to provide employment authorization for certain individuals covered by Liberian Deferred Enforced Departure.

Through a notice published in the Federal Register on September 6, 2022, DHS is providing work authorization, including procedures for obtaining related documentation, for covered individuals effective June 27, 2022, through June 30, 2024. DHS is automatically extending the validity of DED-based employment authorization documents bearing a Category Code of A-11 and a "Card Expires" date of March 30, 2020, January 10, 2021, or June 30, 2022, through June 30, 2024. The notice provides instructions for DED-eligible individuals, including on how to apply for EADs and for travel authorization.

Eligible individuals include noncitizens who are Liberian nationals, or individuals having no nationality who last habitually resided in Liberia, regardless of country of birth, who were covered by DED as of June 30, 2022; as well as to Liberian nationals, or individuals having no nationality who last habitually resided in Liberia, regardless of country of birth, who have been continuously physically present in the United States since May 20, 2017. They must meet all eligibility criteria.