DAVID M. SPERLING
& ASSOCIATES

lawyers@dms.law
www.dms.law
@immigrationattorneyli

Friday, February 20, 2026

VIA ECF
Honorable Gary R. Brown
United States District Judge
Eastern District of New York
100 Federal Plaza
Central Islip, NY 11722

RE: *Sanchez Alfaro v. Almodovar et al.*, No. 26:cv-00766 (Brown, J.)

Dear Judge Brown:

This office, through undesigned counsel, represents the petitioner Mr. William Enrique Sanchez Alfaro.

The March 2026 Visa Bulletin issued by the US Department of State has been published. *See* March 2026 Visa Bulletin at page 4.

The petitioner, as Your Honor is aware, has an approved I-360 Special Immigrant Juvenile Status Petition with a priority date of July 12, 2021. **The March Visa Bulletin is at July 15, 2021 and therefore the petitioner is immediately eligible to file for Legal Permanent Residency Status.**

Thank you for Your Honor's consideration of this submission.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chartrisse A. Adlam, Esq.
Law Offices of David M. Sperling
Counsel for Petitioner

cc: By ECF
Thomas R. Price, Esq.
Assistant United States Attorney

☒ 81 Carleton Ave, Central Islip, NY 11722 — (631) 232-9555 – Fax (631) 232-9520
☐ 1391 New York Ave, Huntington Station, NY 11746 — (631) 427-1158 – Fax (631) 427-6551
☐ 80 W. Main St, Riverhead, NY 11901 — (631) 740-9150 – Fax (631) 284-6099
☐ 27 W. Columbia St, Hempstead, NY 11550 — (516) 214-6340 – Fax (516) 280-2455

Consular Affairs
U.S. DEPARTMENT of STATE

March 2026

Visa Bulletin

Number 12, Volume XI | Washington, D.C.

Immigrant Numbers for March 2026

A. Statutory Numbers for Preference Immigrant Visas

This bulletin summarizes the availability of immigrant numbers during March for "Final Action Dates" and "Dates for Filing Applications," indicating when immigrant visa applicants should be notified to assemble and submit required documentation to the National Visa Center.

Unless otherwise indicated on the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) website at www.uscis.gov/visabulletininfo, individuals seeking to file applications for adjustment of status with USCIS must use the "Final Action Dates" charts below for determining when they can file such applications. When USCIS determines that there are more immigrant visas available for the fiscal year than there are known applicants for such visas, USCIS will state on its website that applicants may instead use the "Dates for Filing Visa Applications" charts in this Bulletin.

1. **Procedures for determining dates.** Consular officers are required to report to the Department of State documentarily qualified applicants for numerically limited visas; USCIS reports applicants for adjustment of status. Allocations in the charts below were made, to the extent possible, in chronological order of reported priority dates, for demand received by February 4th. If all reported demand could not be satisfied, the category or foreign state in which demand was excessive was deemed oversubscribed. The final action date for an oversubscribed category is the priority date of the first applicant who could not be reached within the numerical limits. If it becomes necessary during the monthly allocation process to retrogress a final action date, supplemental requests for numbers will be honored only if the priority date falls within the new final action date announced in this bulletin. If at any time an annual limit were reached, it would be necessary to immediately make the preference category "unavailable", and no further requests for numbers would be honored.

2. The fiscal year 2026 limit for family-sponsored preference immigrants determined in accordance with Section 201 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) is 226,000. The worldwide level for annual employment-based preference immigrants is at least 140,000. Section 202 prescribes that the per-country limit for preference immigrants is set at 7% of the total annual family-sponsored and employment-based preference limits, i.e., 25,620. The dependent area limit is set at 2%, or 7,320.

3. INA Section 203(e) provides that family-sponsored and employment-based preference visas be issued to eligible immigrants in the order in which a petition on behalf of each has been filed. Section 203(d) provides that spouses and children of preference immigrants are entitled to the same status, and the same order of consideration, if accompanying or following to join the principal. The visa prorating provisions of Section 202(e) apply to allocations for a foreign state or dependent area when visa issuances will exceed the per-country limit. These provisions apply at present to the following

oversubscribed chargeability areas: CHINA-mainland born, INDIA, MEXICO, and PHILIPPINES.

4. Section 203(a) of the INA prescribes preference classes for allotment of Family-sponsored immigrant visas as follows:

Family-Sponsored Preferences

First: **(F1)** Unmarried Sons and Daughters of U.S. Citizens: 23,400 plus any numbers not required for fourth preference.

Second: Spouses and Children, and Unmarried Sons and Daughters of Permanent Residents: 114,200, plus the number (if any) by which the worldwide family preference level exceeds 226,000, plus any unused first preference numbers:

A. **(F2A)** Spouses and Children of Permanent Residents: 77% of the overall second preference limitation, of which 75% are exempt from the per-country limit.
B. **(F2B)** Unmarried Sons and Daughters (21 years of age or older) of Permanent Residents: 23% of the overall second preference limitation.

Third: **(F3)** Married Sons and Daughters of U.S. Citizens: 23,400, plus any numbers not required by first and second preferences.

Fourth: **(F4)** Brothers and Sisters of Adult U.S. Citizens: 65,000, plus any numbers not required by first three preferences.

A. Final Action Dates for Family-Sponsored Preference Class

On the chart below, the listing of a date for any class indicates that the class is oversubscribed (see paragraph 1); "C" means current, i.e., numbers are authorized for issuance to all qualified applicants; and "U" means unauthorized, i.e., numbers are not authorized for issuance. (NOTE: Numbers are authorized for issuance only for applicants whose priority date is **earlier** than the final action date listed below.)

Family-Sponsored	All Chargeability Areas Except Those Listed	CHINA-mainland born	INDIA	MEXICO	PHILIPPINES
F1	08NOV16	08NOV16	08NOV16	22DEC06	01MAR13
F2A	01FEB24	01FEB24	01FEB24	01FEB23	01FEB24
F2B	01DEC16	01DEC16	01DEC16	15FEB09	22DEC12
F3	08SEP11	08SEP11	08SEP11	01MAY01	01MAR05
F4	08JAN08	08JAN08	01NOV06	08APR01	01SEP06

For March, F2A numbers EXEMPT from per-country limit are authorized for issuance to applicants from all countries with priority dates earlier than 01FEB23. F2A numbers SUBJECT to per-country limit are authorized for issuance to applicants chargeable to all countries EXCEPT MEXICO, with priority dates

beginning 01FEB23 and earlier than 01FEB24. All F2A numbers provided for MEXICO are exempt from the per-country limit.

B. Dates for Filing Family-Sponsored Visa Applications

The chart below reflects dates for filing visa applications within a timeframe justifying immediate action in the application process. Applicants for immigrant visas who have a priority date earlier than the application date in the chart below may assemble and submit required documents to the Department of State's National Visa Center, following receipt of notification from the National Visa Center containing detailed instructions. The application date for an oversubscribed category is the priority date of the first applicant who cannot submit documentation to the National Visa Center for an immigrant visa. If a category is designated "current," all applicants in the relevant category may file applications, regardless of priority date.

A "C" listing indicates that the category is current, and that applications may be filed regardless of the applicant's priority date. The listing of a date for any category indicates that only applicants with a priority date which is **earlier** than the listed date may file their application.

Visit www.uscis.gov/visabulletininfo for information on whether USCIS has determined that this chart can be used (in lieu of the chart in paragraph 4.A.) this month for filing applications for adjustment of status with USCIS.

Family-Sponsored	All Chargeability Areas Except Those Listed	CHINA-mainland born	INDIA	MEXICO	PHILIPPINES
F1	01SEP17	01SEP17	01SEP17	01DEC07	22APR15
F2A	22FEB26	22FEB26	22FEB26	22FEB26	22FEB26
F2B	15MAR17	15MAR17	15MAR17	15FEB10	01OCT13
F3	22JUL12	22JUL12	22JUL12	01JUL01	01JUN06
F4	01MAR09	01MAR09	15DEC06	30APR01	15JAN08

5. Section 203(b) of the INA prescribes preference classes for allotment of Employment-based immigrant visas as follows:

Employment-Based Preferences

First: Priority Workers: 28.6% of the worldwide employment-based preference level, plus any numbers not required for fourth and fifth preferences.

Second: Members of the Professions Holding Advanced Degrees or Persons of Exceptional Ability: 28.6% of the worldwide employment-based preference level, plus any numbers not required by first preference.

Third: Skilled Workers, Professionals, and Other Workers: 28.6% of the worldwide level, plus any numbers not required by first and second preferences, of which not more than 10,000 may be provided to "*Other Workers".

Fourth: Certain Special Immigrants: 7.1% of the worldwide level.

Fifth: Employment Creation: 7.1% of the worldwide level, of which 32% are reserved as follows: 20% reserved for qualified immigrants who invest in a rural area; 10% reserved for qualified immigrants who invest in a high unemployment area; and 2% reserved for qualified immigrants who invest in infrastructure projects. The remaining 68% are unreserved and are allotted for all other qualified immigrants.

A. Final Action Dates for Employment-Based Preference Cases

On the chart below, the listing of a date for any class indicates that the class is oversubscribed (see paragraph 1); "C" means current, i.e., numbers are authorized for issuance to all qualified applicants; and "U" means unauthorized, i.e., numbers are not authorized for issuance. (NOTE: Numbers are authorized for issuance only for applicants whose priority date is **earlier** than the final action date listed below.)

Employment-Based	All Chargeability Areas Except Those Listed	CHINA-mainland born	INDIA	MEXICO	PHILIPPINES
1st	C	01MAR23	01MAR23	C	C
2nd	15OCT24	01SEP21	15SEP13	15OCT24	15OCT24
3rd	01OCT23	01MAY21	15NOV13	01OCT23	01AUG23
Other Workers	01NOV21	08DEC18	15NOV13	01NOV21	01NOV21
* 4th	15JUL21	15JUL21	15JUL21	15JUL21	15JUL21
Certain Religious Workers	15JUL21	15JUL21	15JUL21	15JUL21	15JUL21
5th Unreserved *(including C5, T5, I5, R5, NU, RU)*	C	15AUG16	01MAY22	C	C
5th Set Aside: Rural (20%) *(including NR, RR)*	C	C	C	C	C
5th Set Aside: High Unemployment (10%) *(including NH, RH)*	C	C	C	C	C

5th Set Aside: Infrastructure (2%) *(including RI)*	C	C	C	C	C

*Employment Third Preference Other Workers Category: Section 203(e) of the Nicaraguan and Central American Relief Act (NACARA) passed by Congress in November 1997, as amended by Section 1(e) of Pub. L. 105-139, provides that once the Employment Third Preference Other Worker (EW) cut-off date has reached the priority date of the latest EW petition approved prior to November 19, 1997, the 10,000 EW numbers available for a fiscal year are to be reduced by up to 5,000 annually beginning in the following fiscal year. This reduction is to be made for as long as necessary to offset adjustments under the NACARA program. Since the EW final action date reached November 19, 1997 during Fiscal Year 2001, the reduction in the EW annual limit to 5,000 began in Fiscal Year 2002. For Fiscal Year 2026 this reduction will be limited to approximately 150.

B. Dates for Filing of Employment-Based Visa Applications

The chart below reflects dates for filing visa applications within a timeframe justifying immediate action in the application process. Applicants for immigrant visas who have a priority date earlier than the application date in the chart may assemble and submit required documents to the Department of State's National Visa Center, following receipt of notification from the National Visa Center containing detailed instructions. The application date for an oversubscribed category is the priority date of the first applicant who cannot submit documentation to the National Visa Center for an immigrant visa. If a category is designated "current," all applicants in the relevant category may file, regardless of priority date.

The "C" listing indicates that the category is current, and that applications may be filed regardless of the applicant's priority date. The listing of a date for any category indicates that only applicants with a priority date which is **earlier** than the listed date may file their application.

Visit www.uscis.gov/visabulletininfo for information on whether USCIS has determined that this chart can be used (in lieu of the chart in paragraph 5.A.) this month for filing applications for adjustment of status with USCIS.

Employment-Based	All Chargeability Areas Except Those Listed	CHINA-mainland born	INDIA	MEXICO	PHILIPPINES
1st	C	01DEC23	01DEC23	C	C
2nd	C	01JAN22	01NOV14	C	C
3rd	15JAN24	01JAN22	15AUG14	15JAN24	01JAN24
Other Workers	22JUN22	01OCT19	15AUG14	22JUN22	22JUN22
4th	01JAN23	01JAN23	01JAN23	01JAN23	01JAN23

Certain Religious Workers	01JAN23	01JAN23	01JAN23	01JAN23	01JAN23
5th Unreserved *(including C5, T5, I5, R5, NU, RU)*	C	01OCT16	01MAY24	C	C
5th Set Aside: Rural (20%) *(including NR, RR)*	C	C	C	C	C
5th Set Aside: High Unemployment (10%) *(including NH, RH)*	C	C	C	C	C
5th Set Aside: Infrastructure (2%) *(including RI)*	C	C	C	C	C

B. Diversity Immigrant (DV) Category for the Month of March

Section 203(c) of the INA provides up to 55,000 immigrant visas each fiscal year to permit additional immigration opportunities for persons from countries with low admissions during the previous five years. The NACARA stipulates that beginning with DV-99, and for as long as necessary, up to 5,000 of the 55,000 annually allocated diversity visas will be made available for use under the NACARA program. Visa numbers made available to NACARA applicants in FY 2025 will result in reduction of the DV-2026 annual limit to approximately 54,850. Section 5104 of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2024 amended the NACARA's provisions on the DV program such that the number of visas made available under the NDAA each fiscal year will be deducted from the 55,000 DVs annually allocated. These amendments will further reduce the DV-2026 annual limit to approximately 52,000. DVs are divided among six geographic regions. No one country can receive more than seven percent of the available diversity visas in any one year.

For March, immigrant numbers in the DV category are available to qualified DV-2026 applicants chargeable to all regions/eligible countries as follows. When an allocation cut-off number is shown, visas are available only for applicants with DV regional lottery rank numbers BELOW the specified allocation cut-off number:

Region	**All DV Chargeability Areas Except Those Listed Separately**			
AFRICA	45,000	Except:	Algeria	37,000
			Egypt	22,250
ASIA	30,000	Except:	Nepal	6,500
EUROPE	11,000			

NORTH AMERICA (BAHAMAS)	30	
OCEANIA	1,200	
SOUTH AMERICA, and the CARIBBEAN	2,100	

Entitlement to immigrant status in the DV category lasts only through the end of the fiscal (visa) year for which the applicant is selected in the lottery. The year of entitlement for all applicants registered for the DV-2026 program ends as of September 30, 2026. DVs may not be issued to DV-2026 applicants after that date. Similarly, spouses and children accompanying or following to join DV-2026 principals are only entitled to derivative DV status until September 30, 2026. DV availability through the end of FY-2026 cannot be taken for granted. Numbers could be exhausted prior to September 30.

C. Diversity (DV) Immigrant Category Rank Cut-Offs Which Will Apply in April

For April, immigrant numbers in the DV category are available to qualified DV-2026 applicants chargeable to all regions/eligible countries as follows. When an allocation cut-off number is shown, visas are available only for applicants with DV regional lottery rank numbers BELOW the specified allocation cut-off number:

Region	**All DV Chargeability Areas Except Those Listed Separately**			
AFRICA	55,000	Except:	Algeria	37,000
			Egypt	30,000
ASIA	35,000	Except:	Nepal	10,000
EUROPE	20,000			
NORTH AMERICA (BAHAMAS)	50			
OCEANIA	1,500			
SOUTH AMERICA, and the CARIBBEAN	3,000			

D. Availability of Family-Sponsored and Employment-Based Visas

Immigrant visa issuance rates for aliens from certain countries have decreased in light of various actions the administration has taken to protect national security and public safety, and to otherwise advance the interests of the United States (e.g. Presidential Proclamation 10949, Presidential Proclamation 10998, Immigrant Visa Processing Updates). Consequently, to make visas available in accordance with sections 201-203 of the INA to sufficient prospective immigrants from other countries to use immigrant visa numbers that are available in FY-2026, dates for filing and final action dates have been advanced across various immigrant visa categories. Note that as additional immigrant visa demand materializes, or administration actions are amended, retrogression may be necessary later in the fiscal year to keep

issuances within annual limits. This situation is being continually monitored, and any necessary adjustments will be made accordingly.

E. Extension of the Employment Fourth Preference Certain Religious Workers (SR) Category

H.R. 7148, signed on February 3, 2026, extends the Employment Fourth Preference Certain Religious Workers (SR) category until September 30, 2026. The SR category is subject to the same dates for filing and final action dates as the other Employment Fourth Preference categories per applicable foreign state of chargeability.

F. U.S. Government Employee Special Immigrant Visas (SIVs)

The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2024, signed into law on December 22, 2023, may affect certain current and former employees of the U.S. Government abroad, as well as certain surviving spouses and children of deceased employees of the U.S. government abroad, applying for SIVs or adjustment of status, as described in section 101(a)(27)(D) of the INA. This does not affect certain Iraqis and Afghans applying for SQ and SI SIVs. Applicants should contact the consular section at which they filed their Form DS-1884 for further information on the impact of that law on their case.

For the latest information on visa processing at U.S. embassies and consulates, please visit the Bureau of Consular Affairs website at travel.state.gov.

Department of State Publication 9514
CA/VO: February 4, 2026