

Re: Status for Collette Lafayette

From: Lane-White, Brittani [REDACTED]

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]@bhlaw.com; [REDACTED]@bhlaw.com; [REDACTED]@jcsd.net; [REDACTED]@jcsd.net

Date: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 at 11:30 AM EDT

Good Morning Ms. Lafayette,

First, please let me begin by saying that you are correct. As far as I know, you have complied with the majority of the requirements to include leaving the US, as soon as possible. Your compliance has been noted and is greatly appreciated. You have made working to process your renewal much easier. However, let me address your concerns as directly and transparently as possible.

I have to first remind you that your original petition was submitted by Attorney Starr of the Starr Law Group and should have been maintained by that firm. When I learned of your visa's expiration, it was already after the expiration date which presented several challenges. Attorney Beck took on your case and has been very diligently working with me in addressing the issues presented within your case to ensure submission of an application that represents both your diligence, value to the district, and the district's intentions for your continued employment.

Unfortunately, the firm Attorney Beck represents is no longer working on behalf of Jasper teachers. The school board voted to transfer all international cases to another immigration firm effective July 18, so your case, while almost complete, could be transferred. Attorney Beck has communicated the high importance of your case. I am reading that the transferring firm would prefer she continue with your case to completion because that is in your best interest. However, I will keep you posted.

Additionally, the last communication from Attorney Beck on your case was a couple of weeks ago. So, while I know this wait time is difficult, your case is moving forward, and your affairs are being addressed. You are very important to your school and the district.

Finally, please know that I am not misunderstanding your frustrations and concern because I understand the difficulty and stress the renewal and now transition of firms presents. However, please know that it is my intention to ensure that whoever represents the district's international teachers does so respectfully, legally, and swiftly.

I apologize for all these issues, but please know that it is the district's intention to work swiftly on your behalf and that your matters are being addressed. When I have an update, you will have one as well.

Best,
Brittani

Brittani Lane-White, MAT
Human Resources Generalist

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From: Collette Lafayette <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 8:24 AM
To: Lane-White, Brittani <[REDACTED]@jcsd.net>
Cc: Mackenzie Clarke <[REDACTED]@bhlaw.com>; Kaitlin Beck <[REDACTED]@bhlaw.com>; Terrill, Wesley <[REDACTED]@jcsd.net>; Anderson, Rechel <[REDACTED]@jcsd.net>
Subject: RE: Status for Collette Lafayette

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Dear Ms Lane-White

I am yet to be updated to the status of my application with USCIS. The lawyer has been in possession of my file for over a month, and to date, progress has not been communicated. I have ensured that I met all the requirements and qualifications to maintain my status. I have done everything required and it was done on time. Further, I have a signed contract with JCSD indicating my continued employment. However, the district has failed to fulfill their obligations, which has led to negative consequences for me. I have been instructed by JCSD's legal counsel to leave the country at my own expense and I am expected to fulfill my financial obligations both overseas and locally without any compensation or pay due to the change of the academic calendar, which I understand the latter is not a result of your office. This situation has caused significant financial, mental, and emotional distress, and my daughter's education is now uncertain. I believe that the district is not handling the situation with the necessary care.

Upon research and reviewing the USCIS website, I have discovered that I actually had a longer grace period to remain in the United States after my visa expired. I'm unsure why we were told by legal counsel to leave. Additionally, I have

learned that my employer, JCSD, is responsible for compensating me for any nonproductive time resulting from their failure to ensure the renewal or extension of my visa.

I have important obligations that I must honor. I cannot allow my rights as an H1B holder per legal guidelines by USCIS to be further disregarded.

Please do not misplace the frustration of this situation, as being rude, I'm extremely unsettled and not having any communication or updates, along with this new knowledge has plunged me in deeper distress.

May I please be updated with any new information.

Respectfully,

Collette Lafayette

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