

THE FARRELL LAW GROUP, P.C.
IMMIGRATION REPORT-APRIL 2009

**PRESIDENT OBAMA &
POTENTIAL FOR IMMIGRATION REFORM**

On April 9, 2009, the New York Times published an article containing comments by President Obama about his desire to tackle a reform of the immigration system. In the Presidential race, then-Senator Obama made it clear that comprehensive immigration reform was a priority to him and would be addressed in the first year of his administration. Because of his stated commitment to reform, Latino voters turned out in large numbers for Obama. Considering the dire state of the economy, however, many immigration reform advocates had begun to lose hope that immigration would remain at the top of the agenda.

The President acknowledges that immigration reform is a hot-button issue and is extremely divisive, but he is counting on garnering support for reform by highlighting the fact that the immigration system clearly is broken, a fact acknowledged by pro and anti-reform activists alike. The administration also argues that immigration reform will not add new workers to the system; rather it will legitimize those millions of undocumented workers who already hold those jobs. President Obama is encouraging advocates of immigration reform to build support in their districts by working with their Congressmen and Congresswomen.

In broad strokes, the President would like to see undocumented people come forward and register. They would be asked to admit their violation of the immigration law and pay fines and penalties. The President also recognizes that border enforcement, national verification of documented workers and sanctions against employers who hire illegal workers are necessary steps.

While immigration reform advocates cheer this message from the President, some groups are skeptical that the administration will pursue this path. Opponents of immigration reform feel strongly that if Obama were to attempt immigration reform when the economy is in recession and so many Americans are out of work, it would be political suicide for him. Opponents return to 2007 when George Bush attempted immigration reform and faced a tidal wave of opposition. Even some members of Obama's party are concerned that if Obama attempts to pursue immigration reform at this stage, it will derail his efforts in areas like health care reform.

The President is set to speak to the issue of immigration reform in May. Stay tuned to La Connexion for more information on the possibility of reform. If you have any questions about your particular immigration issues, please contact us at the Farrell Law Group (919-872-0300).

Most Sincerely,

Katherine Bandy, Esq. Jessica Lopez, Legal Assistant Augusto Pasco, Legal Assistant

The Farrell Law Group, PC
4900 Falls of Neuse Road, Suite 212 Raleigh, NC 27609
919-872-0300 phone 919-954-0811 Spanish line