

new in this issue...

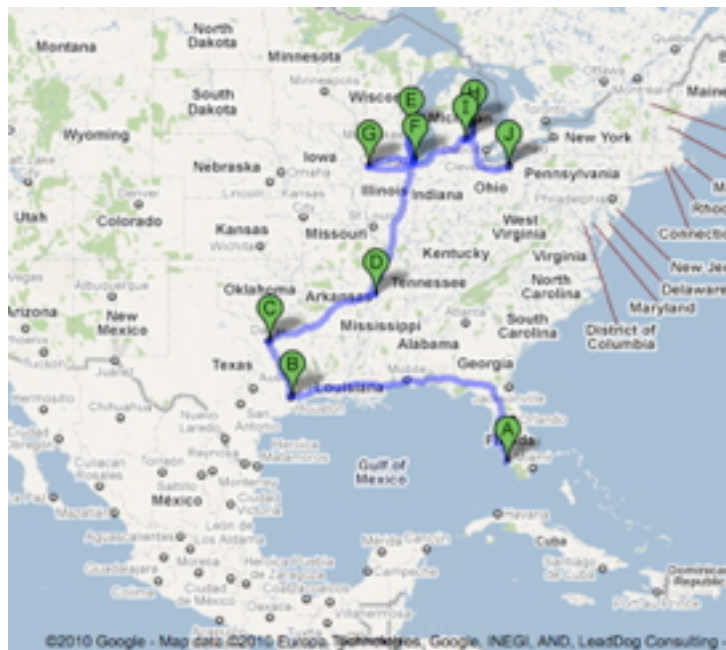
- **EB-5 Road Trips:** USAdvisors.org and others visit EB-5 regional centers and EB-5 Practitioners across the U.S. (pages 1-5)
- **Permanent Extension of EB-5 Program Sought in Immigration Bill** (page 7)
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List Your EB-5 Regional Center or Firm in the 2010 EB-5 Directory!

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USAdvisors.org Visits EB-5 Practitioners Across the South and Midwest

In late April, [Michael Gibson](#) and [George Wozencraft](#) of USAdvisors.org set out on an ambitious road trip, crisscrossing the U.S.A. for the purpose of meeting with EB-5 regional center operators and other EB-5 practitioners. Beginning in Naples, Florida at an EB-5 visa project being handled by [America's Center for Foreign Investment](#) and arriving in Houston, Texas during the last week in April, Michael and George also managed to meet with the [City of Dallas Regional Center \(Civitas Capital\)](#) before heading to Memphis, Tennessee.



Along the way, they have accumulated film footage and conducted interviews with investment immigration specialists involved with the USCIS EB-5 visa program. Wrapping up their initial jaunt through the South by meeting with [Memphis attorney Greg Siskand](#), the two arrived in the Midwest, where stops in Illinois and Wisconsin included [CMB Export Regional Center](#) in

Moline, IL as well as the [Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce \(MMAC\)](#), both of which are active regional centers.



USAdvisors.org in Houston; George Wozencraft (left), Michael Gibson (right)

California Military Bases – CMB Export and CMB Summit – handle some of the oldest, most established EB-5 visa projects in the U.S. With sites in San Bernardino and McClellan Park, California, CMB's projects focus on converting old military bases into developments for civilian use. While at CMB's offices, the USAdvisors.org duo met with Pat Hogan, Kraig Schwigen, and Chan Freitag.

MMAC's headquarters, on the other hand, is located within its EB-5 investment region.

According to the regional center's literature,

“the Milwaukee Immigrant Investment Zone includes Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Waukesha, Washington, and Walworth counties,” making it one of

the larger EB-5 investment areas in the Midwestern United States.

USAdvisors.org wrapped up its Midwest tour with visits to Chicago, Illinois and East Lansing, Michigan. In the Windy City, Michael and George met with [Taher Kameli of the Chicagoland Foreign Investment Group](#) in addition to other immigration attorneys and EB-5 practitioners. The stop in East Lansing included visits with attorney Bob Hood of Willingham & Cote and Jim Lynch of the [Michigan Regional Center Global Investment Program](#). Based in Saginaw, the Michigan regional center is one of two in the state, and its most recent press release states its mission to use the USCIS EB-5 visa program to “rebuild the [Michigan] economy.” Mr. Lynch, no stranger to new product development, has over two decades of experience in early stage venture capital investment.

In Chicago, USAdvisors.org paid a visit to [The Cleveland International Fund](#), which is among those regional centers most recently approved by USCIS for the EB-5 Visa Program. The Fund is a project of The Cleveland Group, an established Ohio consulting firm with a global reach and presence.

Since hitting the road, Michael also managed to participate in two installments of [the ILW “Investor Options for Experts” phone seminar series](#), topics for which included methodology-related questions about direct jobs, indirect jobs, and induced jobs as well as what a regional center is, how it operates, business models for the regional center, and risk factors for EB-5 investors. Other speakers included [David Morris](#), [Scott Barnhart](#), [Melissa Krinzman](#), Jason Oleet, and John Barrett, all of whom are either immigration

attorneys, EB-5 service providers, or EB-5 visa specialists. This phone seminar series will continue throughout the spring and early summer.

Other organizations visited by USAAdvisors.org on its Midwest tour included the following:

- Barry Lichterman and Levitt Shell
- [RCI First Pathway Partners](#); Bob Kraft (Milwaukee)
- [Foster Quan](#), the nation's second-largest immigration law firm (Houston); Attorneys Charles Foster, Ignacio Donoso, and John Meyer
- Dunbar Harder, a full-service immigration law firm in Houston; Attorneys Ken Dunbar, Terry Weir, April Thompson Nakanishi, Christin Burns, and Amy Donnelly Ashby
- Chuck and Christopher Randall; Randall Residence (Lawton, MI)
- Scott Zimmer and David Simmet; Air Advantage (Frankenmuth, MI)
- Clara Dematteis Mager, Marie Alsace Galindo, Michele Polito, Du Zhiguo, and Amy Orłowski of Butzel Long (Detroit, MI)
- Svetlana Schreiber, Tom Gilbert, and Michele Norton; Svetlana Schreiber & Associates (Cleveland, OH)
- Law Offices of Adan G. Vega and Associates (Houston); Attorney Adan Vega
- Yu, South & Associates in Dallas; Attorneys Abraham Yu and Becky Wu
- Law Offices of Nejla Lane
- Law Offices of Barbary Sussman
- Adam Lewis and Vedder Price.



Michael Gibson in Michigan

USAAdvisors.org would like to extend our wholehearted thanks to everyone who met with us during the months of April and May.

Immigration Attorneys Visit California EB-5 Regional Centers



From left to right: Brandon Meyer, Karen Caco, Brendan Heafey (Bay Area Regional Center)

It has been three years since USAdvisors.org Director [Michael Gibson](#) and immigration attorney [Karen Caco](#) first filmed EB-5 visa projects, touring the country to lay down footage of the then 20 existing EB-5 regional centers. Now, with over 80 regional centers to cover, both are pursuing individual tours in order to obtain news, information, and necessary updates about EB-5 visa projects nationwide.

Ms. Caco, the Senior Attorney and Managing Director at [International Immigration Services, PA \(IIS\)](#), acts as an advisor to U.S. businesses and foreign corporations planning their investment and immigration strategies. With over two decades of

experience in immigration law, she brings to the table a wealth of knowledge and experience when it comes to the USCIS EB-5 visa program.

For this impending endeavor, she will film regional centers on the West Coast, in particular the newly-approved [Northern California Regional Center](#), where center principals Jake and Stephen Weststeyn are planning an agricultural project that they anticipate will "generate \$170 million in economic activity" according to a recent press release.

Other stops in California include the [Bay Area Regional Center](#), [California Wineries & Vineyards Regional Center, LLC](#), [CMB McClellan Park](#), and the [California Global Alliance Regional Center](#).

The following is an excerpt from Karen Caco's account of the first stop on the tour:

"Our first stop [...] was at California Wineries & Vineyards Regional Center, LLC ("CWVRC") started and operated by Christina Lau. [The center includes] the geographic area of Napa County [...] Christina was kind enough to meet with us for two+ hours and shared her vision for this Regional Center [...]A well thought out plan indeed."

Earlier this month, Ms. Caco's firm, International Immigration Services, PA, released this press release:

Karen Caco of International Immigration Services, PA ("IIS") has started her filming of EB-5 Regional Centers throughout the United States. The first filming will be done in Northern

California and starts next week. IIS Associate Attorney [Brandon Meyer](#) is accompanying her.

They are filming 3 Regional Centers at this time; Northern California Regional Center in Stockton, CMB, McClellan Park in Sacramento and California Global Alliance in Selma.

Remaining the only Attorney in the world to actually visit and film the Regional Centers and their projects, this is the second trip for Karen Caco. The inaugural tour and filming was undertaken in 2007 when there were less than 20 Regional Centers in the United States. At the time, she completed the filming in collaboration with Michael Gibson. Today with more than 80 Regional Centers, both have decided that it made more sense to divide up the filming of these 80+ Regional Centers throughout the remainder of 2010.

Karen and Brandon will conduct interviews and collect film footage that will be used for future DVD's and media with USAadvisors.org. Filming the production for IIS is Javier Araujo with 360 Image Design, a well-known professional artist, photographer and videographer.

Brandon and Karen recently wrote two EB-5 articles on business immigration; "Now for the Hard Part: Attracting Investors to EB-5 Regional Centers." Immigration Briefings (March 2010), and "Spreading Like Wildfire! What Explains the Explosive Growth of EB-5 Regional Centers?" Immigration Briefings (February 2010), both published by Thomson Reuters.

Keep track of Karen and Brandon and their filming at [EB5info.com](#) and at [www.easyUSimmigration.com](#).



USCIS Approves Northern California Regional Center

United States Citizenship and Immigration Services has just granted EB-5 regional center status to the [Northern California Regional Center](#), and the new center's principals are optimistic about bringing jobs and economic growth to the region.

According to [an April press release](#), the center's "first project, an agricultural development project, will create a large impact on Northern California, generating \$170 million in economic activity both directly and indirectly." Of course, no EB-5 visa project can get off the ground



without investors, but center principals, Jake and Stephen Weststeyn, feel that the design of the EB-5 program holds promise for a region hit hard by the economic recession.

“I think there is a lot of potential for our regional center being in Northern California,” said Stephen Weststeyn during a brief conversation with *EB5info.com*. “It’s a region that could use a lot of job creation.”

And the Northern California Regional Center’s focus on agricultural development – it was approved for agriculture projects – is an area in which the center principals boast nearly a lifetime of experience.

“We’ve been in dairy and ag,” notes Jake Weststeyn, “It’s a family operation.”

As for acquiring investors, Stephen Weststeyn says there are tentative plans to take a trip to China and participate in EB-5 seminars. “We’re probably going to focus most of our efforts on Asia,” he says.

While traveling to Asian countries for the purpose of promoting an EB-5 visa project is not the least bit uncommon in today’s environment, getting to this point has been a long time coming for the Weststeyns and the Northern California Regional Center. It was two and a half years ago when a *Wall Street Journal* article about the EB-5 program first snagged their mutual attention.

After reading “a follow-up article in *Forbes* that piqued [their] interest,” according to Stephen Weststeyn, they finally determined that a new regional center based in Stockton, California would be an excellent way to utilize the program.

“In the early days, there wasn’t too much online about EB-5,” say the Weststeyns, “It was through Michael’s [[Michael Gibson of USAadvisors.org](http://MichaelGibson.org)] DVD that we learned about the program. He was one of the first people we got in touch with when we started all this.”

After making the decision to become a regional center under the EB-5 visa program, navigating through the Department of Homeland Security’s approval process, and finally getting the coveted letter of approval from USCIS, the Northern California Regional Center is ready to become a viable force for economic growth in a region where there is a great need for job creation.

“I think there is a lot of opportunity for our regional center in the area,” says Stephen Weststeyn, “I think it will open things up for a lot of jobs.”



Permanent Extension of EB-5 Visa Program Sought As Part Of Immigration Legislation

According to a statement from the desk of Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT), “Senators Reid, Schumer, and Menendez have released a productive framework for the process of drafting comprehensive immigration reform legislation.” Among the many reforms included in the proposal is a permanent extension of the EB-5 Visa program, which Senator Leahy supports.



Senator Patrick Leahy

While perhaps little more than political PR, the statement is a good indicator of the continued support enjoyed by the EB-5 immigrant investor program among several powerful legislators.

Here is the statement from Senator Leahy’s press room:

“Senators Reid, Schumer and Menendez have released a productive framework for the process of drafting comprehensive immigration reform legislation. I share their commitment to enacting key legislative efforts including AgJobs, the Uniting American Families Act, the DREAM Act, and a permanent extension of the EB-5 foreign investors program, as part of comprehensive reform. These are sensible, constructive and urgently needed measures that have had, and should continue to have, bipartisan support.

“I remain committed to meaningful comprehensive immigration reform. There is bipartisan agreement that reform is needed; there are differences of opinion over how we can accomplish that. I remain seriously concerned with proposals for establishing biometric identification requirements, and I will need to carefully study the details of any such proposal. I also expect to carefully review proposals for enforcement and border security. Meaningful reform must include a realistic path to citizenship to allow us to bring illegal immigrants out of the shadows.

“I hope the outline released today will encourage discussions across the aisle, and that they will lead to a bipartisan legislative proposal. All Americans are concerned with updating our immigration laws, fulfilling our labor needs, and addressing the escalating violence along our southern border. I hope we can come together to address these pressing matters.”



EB-5 Program To Fund Redevelopment Of Brooklyn Navy Yard in New York City

This month, [the Wall Street Journal reported](#) that the [New York City Regional Center](#) “is making the [Brooklyn] Navy Yard its initial investment.” A 20th century relic, most of which has sat unused since the end of World War II, the Brooklyn Navy Yard project should create nearly 3000 new “green jobs” through a combination of EB-5 visa investments and additional funding from New York City.



A 220,000 square foot space will be transformed into a “Green Manufacturing Center,” according to the *Journal*, and other changes to the property will include “five new sound stages and a parking lot” for Steiner Studios, a TV and film production company.

According to the *Journal*:

New York’s first regional center is making the Navy Yard its initial investment. There are 95 other regional centers across the country. New York has two others serving Buffalo and upstate. California, with 26 regional centers, has the most in the nation.

The New York City Regional Center LLC wanted to target a project in an area with high unemployment that would also have government support, said George Olsen, the group’s managing principal.

The unemployment rates in the neighborhoods that border the Navy Yard were 14.8% in Bedford-Stuyvesant, 9.9% in Fort Greene and 7.9% in Williamsburg, according to figures from the third quarter of 2009, the latest available from the Fiscal Policy Institute.

The Navy Yard currently houses 242 businesses and has 5,000 employees working in industries such as e-commerce, manufacturing and film.

The paper also reports that the city is paying “an additional \$81 million for infrastructure upgrades.” The \$125 million raised through the EB-5 program will be divided nearly equally between the Steiner Studios project and green jobs creation project.



Leading Immigration Attorneys to Speak at EB-5 Visa Seminar in New York City

On Thursday, May 20, immigration attorneys [Stephen Yale-Loehr](#) and [Ron Klasko](#) are [leading a seminar](#) at the Grand Hyatt Hotel at Grand Central Station in New York City, the focus of which is the USCIS EB-5 visa immigrant investor program. The New York City chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) is coordinating the event.



Stephen Yale-Loehr

Geared toward the immigration attorney needing to know more about the EB-5 program, be it rudimentary knowledge or a more in-depth understanding of particular EB-5-related topics, the seminar will last from 6:00 to 9:00 PM.

According to Stephen Yale-Loehr, this seminar "will cover all aspects of the EB-5 program, from basic to advanced issues."

An instructor at Cornell Law School in Ithaca, New York, Mr. Yale-Loehr is also a practicing attorney with [Miller Mayer, LLP](#) and a well-known name in the EB-5 community. For more than a quarter of a century, Mr. Yale-Loehr has practiced immigration law and is often cited as an expert when it comes to the USCIS EB-5 visa program.



Ron Klasko

Ron Klasko is a highly-respected immigration attorney and Managing Partner at [Klasko, Rulon, Stock & Seltzer, LLP](#). According to his firm's website, Mr. Klasko is "one of the most sought after" speakers in the country when it comes to immigration law, and he, like Mr. Yale-Loehr, is an EB-5 visa program expert.

Mr. Klasko currently chairs the AILA EB-5 Committee.

At the upcoming seminar, both attorneys will expound upon their knowledge of the EB-5 visa program in hopes that those in attendance will be able to harness the knowledge acquired therein and utilize it for practical applications in the field of immigration law.

"Attendees will gain an appreciation for the complexities of the program" as well as when the visa is or is not appropriate for particular clients, says Mr. Yale-Loehr. Non-AILA members can still attend the seminar for \$50, which will be payable at the door.

For those considering attending the event who have additional questions about seminar topics, discussions, or other matters relating to the event itself, Stephen Yale-Loehr can be reached at swy1@cornell.edu or (607) 273-4200 x 318.

EB-5 Directory To Be Distributed AT AILA Conference, Other Events



Tuesday, June 1 is the last day for regional centers, firms, and other EB-5-related organizations to sign up for the 2010 USAAdvisors.org EB-5 Regional Center Directory. The directory will be distributed at this year's AILA conference, the EB-5 Investors Conference in Boston this August, and a host of additional EB-5 events and seminars.

Net profits for the directory will be donated to the Wounded Warrior Project. For additional information or to sign up, see [the EB-5 Directory page](#) at [EB5info.com](#).



Are you an EB-5 practitioner who would like to contribute an article?
Email Adam Green, Editor: adam@usadvisors.org
or contribute directly at *EB5info.com*.

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