

The Source for Information on EB-5 Visa Investments.  
“Inform your clients, protect your practice.”

APRIL 2019

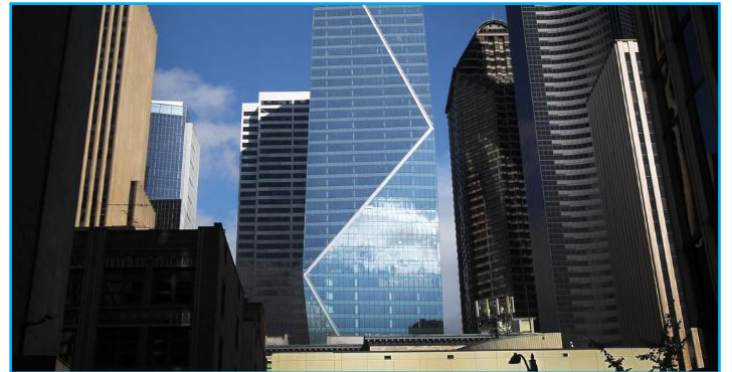


## THREE YEARS ON, NO CRIMINAL CHARGES IN JAY PEAK FRAUD

[Page 03](#)

## HOW SEATTLE BECAME A HOTSPOT FOR EB-5 INVESTMENTS

[Page 05](#)



## GUEST COMMENTARY: DIFFUSE THE OBAMA-ERA EB-5 IMMIGRANT INVESTOR TIME BOMB

[Page 08](#)

## FAILED LUCKY DRAGON CASINO SOLD FOR FRACTION OF CONSTRUCTION COST

[Page 12](#)





## EB-5 Project Database: Knowledge-Based Investing

[www.EB5Projects.com](http://www.EB5Projects.com)

- ➔ Search and compare to find the best Regional Center and Direct (Franchise) Investments
- ➔ Background, credit and suitability reports on the Projects, Regional Centers, Developers and Operators
- ➔ Independent research, due diligence and risk analysis reports on the investments and principals
- ➔ Invest directly: get higher quality investments at lower costs (no agents or finders)



## AAP launches US EB-5 visa investor programme in Nigeria

Atlantic American Partners (AAP) has launched its United States EB-5 Immigrant Investor Program in Nigeria to help potential investors secure a hassle-free immigration process to live, work, attend school in the U.S and also get reasonable return on their investment.



The EB-5 visa creates opportunity for foreign investors to invest in the United States and become legal permanent residents in America with a green card ([Read more](#))

Related Stories:

- [U.S visa experts to meet Nigerian investors for green card opportunities](#)
- [Diversified sustainable investing – The AAP's 'EB-5' foreign investor visa approach](#)

## Forum set for Tuesday on business assistance

The Lamoille Economic Development Corp. is sponsoring a business assistance forum on Tuesday, April 30, from 9 to noon at the Green Mountain Technology and Career Center in Hyde Park.

Representatives from several federal and state organizations will make short presentations on the nature of the assistance available to local businesses:

- Small Business Administration, small business financing and technical assistance. ([Read more](#))



## PNJ5 Chooses NES Financial EB-5 Solution Suite for Sacramento Hyatt Development

# NES Financial™

Leading Specialty Financial Administrator's Purpose-Built Solutions Provide Security, Transparency & Compliance Throughout the Immigrant Investor Process

NES Financial announced today that Bay Area development firm PNJ5 has selected NES Financial's suite of EB-5 solutions for the new Hyatt Centric hotel project in Sacramento, California. PNJ5 will utilize NES Financial's EB-5 Process, and Accounting Administration Suites, which are designed to help issuers raise and deploy EB-5 capital more quickly, while minimizing risk and streamlining project efficiency. ([Read more](#))

## Three years on, no criminal charges in Jay Peak fraud

Gov. Peter Shumlin, Jay Peak CEO Bill Stenger, Ariel Quiros, the owner of Jay Peak, and his son Ary Quiros at a ribbon cutting.

No criminal charges have been brought in the Jay Peak Resort fraud scandal — three years after federal and state regulators filed civil charges against the developers, Ariel Quiros and Bill Stenger. Both men settled the civil charges with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission more than a year ago and came to an agreement with the state 10 months ago. ([Read more](#))



Related Stories:

- [Stowe lawyer argues EB-5](#)
- [EB-5 in court, drug crackdown, Burlington immigration](#)
- [Investor attorney takes on state, twice, in EB-5 cases before Vermont Supreme Court](#)
- [Judge OKs insurance payments of more than \\$1 million to Quiros and Stenger](#)
- [Shumlin, in court filing, rebuts 'dirty hands' claim in Jay Peak case](#)

## U.S. Immigration Fund Announces I-924 Approval for its 29th & 5th Project, HFZ Capital's NoMad Tower

U.S. Immigration Fund (USIF) is pleased to announce that United States Citizenship Immigration Services ("USCIS") has issued an I-924 application approval for its 29th and 5th Project.

"We are pleased to receive I-924 approval for our 29th and 5th EB-5 project," said Nicholas A. Mastroianni, III, President of U.S. Immigration Fund. "I-924 approval provides our investors with predictability of project success and we want to additionally congratulate all investors involved in the 29th and 5th project. ([Read more](#))



## Taking Aim at today's EB-5 Market in 2019

U.S. Immigration Fund (USIF) is pleased to announce that United States Citizenship Immigration Services ("USCIS") has issued an I-924 application approval for its 29th and 5th Project.

"We are pleased to receive I-924 approval for our 29th and 5th EB-5 project," said Nicholas A. Mastroianni, III, President of U.S. Immigration Fund. "I-924 approval provides our investors with predictability of project success and we want to additionally congratulate all investors involved in the 29th and 5th project. ([Read more](#))

## Here's everything you need to know about immigrant investor visa program



### U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

One of the main reasons for the popularity of EB-5 visas is speed – it allows applicants to acquire a Green Card within two years and, in some cases, less than a year.

H-1B has long been the visa of choice for Indians seeking to relocate to the United States. But as the program faces increasing uncertainty, Indians are flocking to the EB-5 visa, the fastest and most direct route to a Green Card. ([Read more](#))

Related Stories:

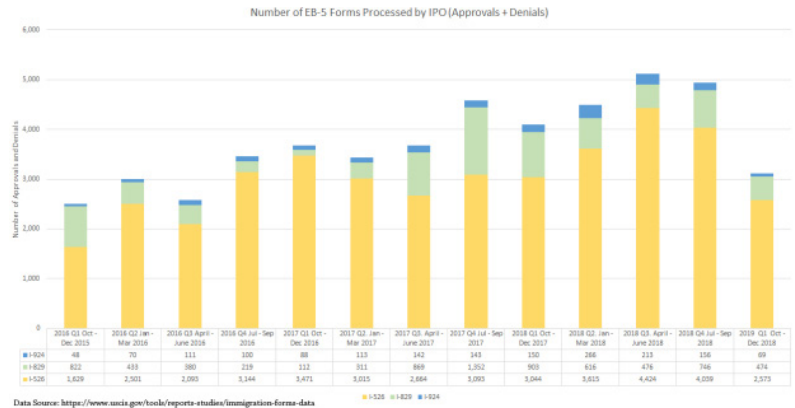
- [May 2019 Visa Bulletin Updates](#)
- [EB-5 visas for Indian investors increased more than three times. EB-5 program statistics in 2018](#)

# FY2019 Q1 EB-5 Petition Processing Statistics

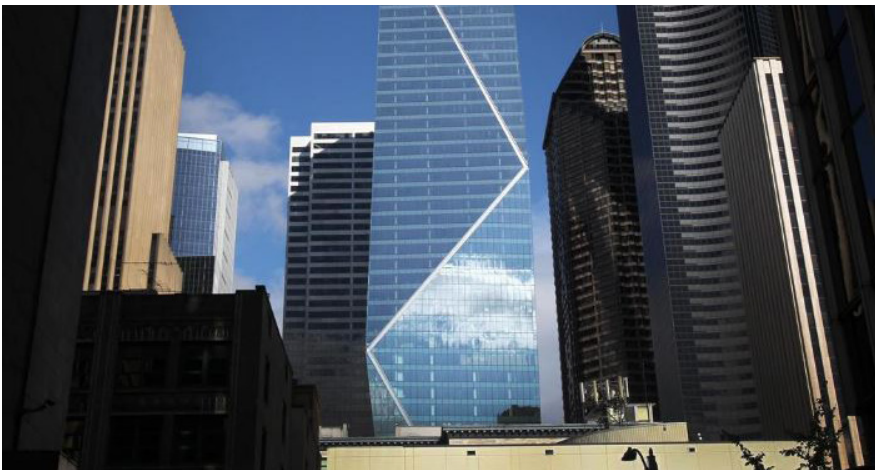
USCIS has updated the Immigration & Citizenship Data page with data for petitions processed in FY2019 Q1 (October to December 2018).

The data shows that the Investor Program Office had an unproductive first quarter, with the fewest EB-5 forms processed since 2016. No wonder processing times remain long. Sometimes the data reflects a workload trade-off (e.g. fewer I-526 but more I-829 processed), but FY19 Q1 just had very low output overall. ([Read more](#))

Related Story: [Current EB-5 Processing Times](#)



## How Seattle became a hotspot for EB-5 investments



The F5 Tower (center) is a 660-foot-tall skyscraper that Seattle-based Daniels Real Estate developed at 801 Fifth Ave.

The intent behind the EB-5 program has become obscured as projects arise in a thriving city.

Many of America's top companies have made their home in the Seattle skyline, built on a foundation funded by millions of dollars from immigrants. ([Read more](#))

## EB-5 Webinar for College Students Presented to The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania students April 3rd, 2019

In this presentation, we will cover the following main topics:

- First, we will talk about what EB-5 is, and why is it relevant to a foreign student in an American college.
- We will then touch upon the reason why EB-5 might be a better choice for most students than other non-immigrant visas such as H-1B or E-2.
- We will then explain how a student could obtain the necessary funds for the required EB-5 investment amount. ([Read more](#))



# New Bill Introduced to Use Economic Abilities of EB-5 to Assist Disaster Recovery in Declared National Disaster Areas

**GT** GreenbergTraurig

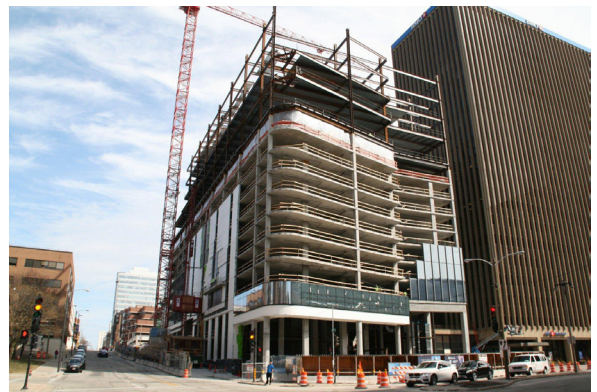
On April 9, 2019, Rep. González-Colón (R-PR-At Large) introduced H.R.2173 – a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to reserve EB-5 visas each fiscal year for investors in new commercial

enterprises in areas where a major disaster has been declared by the president.

The bill is not publicly available as of this writing, but staff informed EB-5 Insights that it proposes to set aside 100 immigrant investor visas per year for areas designated by presidential declaration to be major disasters. ([Read more](#))

## CN Global Partner and the new BMO Bank Tower EB-5 Milwaukee

The First Pathway Partners BMO EB-5 project is now over 30% complete. BMO Harris Bank and a host of other tenants will eventually rise 328 feet at 25-stories. CN looks forward to its continued marketing efforts in Seoul Korea. Korean market is very active in today's dynamics. ([Read more](#))



## No Consensus on Harm to EB-5 Program Posed By Revised Regulation



The U.S. Office of Management and Budget is on the verge of revising regulations governing the EB-5 visa program. The proposal would raise the minimum required investment and shift responsibility for designating areas as eligible for investment away from local entities into federal hands, and the real estate industry isn't certain what that will mean for the flow of investment capital under the program.

One take is that the revision might seriously wound or even spur the demise of the program, which has had a bumpy few years lately, with lawsuits and cases of fraud and abuse dogging EB-5s, and sharp criticism from members of Congress. ([Read more](#))



**FIND HUNDREDS OF EB-5 PROJECTS BY CENTER, LOCATION, CATEGORY.**

**DUE DILLIGENCE:** search documents, project news, videos, investor updates; download risk analysis reports, background checks, I-924A filings; obtain independent feasibility studies, offering document reviews, economic impact analysis verification reports.

**DATA. KNOWLEDGE. ADVICE. NO ADVERTISING EB5PROJECTS.COM**

**EB-5 INVESTMENTS**  
THE EB-5 VISA INVESTMENT MARKETPLACE

## Updates (Redeployment, Material Change, India Retrogression, I-526 processing and RFEs)

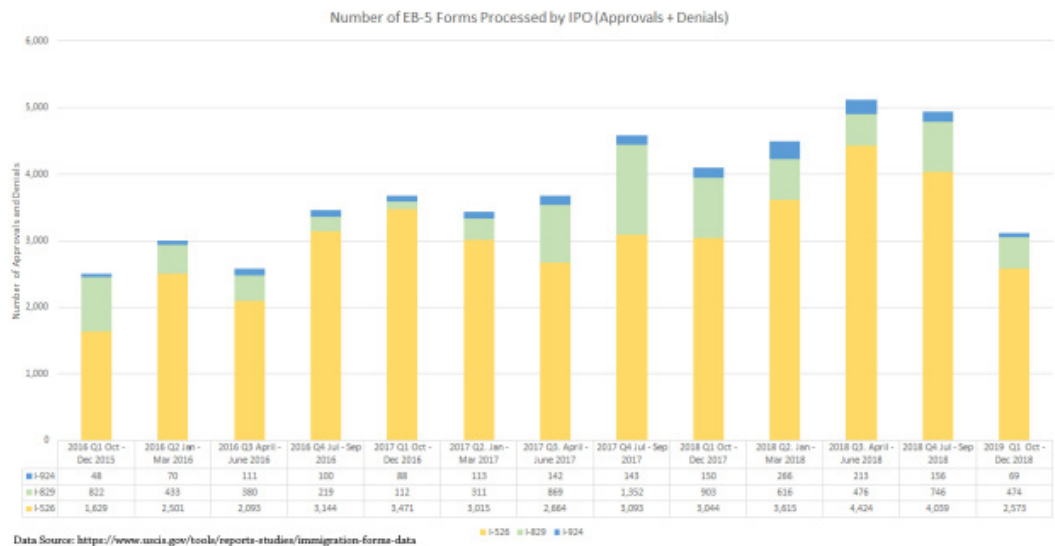
### Redeployment

Last year IPO asked industry stakeholders to offer suggestions regarding redeployment. IIUSA has now followed up with a Memo to USCIS on Redeployment Policy. The memo points out again why the redeployment policy should not

even exist, since neither statute nor regulation nor does precedent support a requirement to redeploy EB-5 investment into additional business activity after the job creation requirement has already been met and funds have been returned to the NCE. ([Read more](#))

### Related Stories:

- [EB-5 Capital Redeployment: Top 10 Considerations for Investors When a Project Announces Redeployment](#)
- [60% of Chinese Investors Would Walk Away if Faced with Redeployment: Recent Poll](#)
- [EB-5 Visa Demand Slows in Early 2019; Launching Vietnam Forward and Calling Into Question Whether India Retrogression Will Take Effect This Fiscal Year](#)



## System is 'broken,' Bay Area immigration attorney tells real estate professionals



At "Understanding Silicon Valley Immigration," a program hosted by the Global Business Council of the Silicon Valley Association of Realtors, Realtors listened intently as immigration attorney Sophie Alcorn explained today's intricate immigration process and how it is affecting foreigners seeking entry to the U.S.

Alcorn, whose firm Alcorn Immigration Law in Mountain View has been recognized as the fastest growing law firm in Silicon Valley with a nearly 100 percent success rate, said immigration is a socio-political issue affecting a large number of people ([Read more](#))

## South Bay pair gamed EB-5 visa program for millions in profit from wealthy investors, feds say

Construction is underway on the Mission Hills Square development in Fremont. The housing and retail project was one piece of a fraudulent scheme by two South Bay residents to profit off of an immigration program that provides a path to citizenship in exchange for investments in American companies, according to federal prosecutors.

It was an extensive plan to take advantage of a controversial immigration program, and federal authorities say that by the time they intervened ([Read more](#))



## GUEST COMMENTARY: Diffuse the Obama-era EB-5 Immigrant Investor time bomb



President Donald Trump's advisers have an opportunity to protect him from a time bomb set to go off soon, and they can benefit the U.S. economy at the same time. All they must do is put a stop to an Obama-era regulation that would undermine the job-creating EB-5 investor immigrant program.

Trump confidants Larry Kudlow, director of the National Economic Council, and Mick Mulvaney, director of the Office of Management and Budget while also serving as acting chief of staff ([Read more](#))

Related Stories:

- [Diffuse the Obama-Era EB-5 Immigrant Investor Time Bomb](#)
- ['Our country is full': Donald Trump says migrants are straining US system as he visits border wall](#)
- [Chinese take a shine to Europe's investor immigrant schemes, as waiting list for US programme stretches to 10 years](#)
- [End Obama's midnight regulation attacking merit-based immigration](#)



## Hall Structured Finance Closes \$41.8M Loan to Finance the Construction of A Dual Flag aloft and Element Hotel in Orlando

Aloft Element in Orlando Night Rendering

Dallas-based HALL Structured Finance (HSF) announced today that the company has closed a new first lien construction loan totalling \$41.8 million to finance the construction of a dual-branded 144-room Aloft Hotel and 140-room extended stay Element Hotel in Orlando, Florida. The hotel, slated to open in Q4 2020, will be constructed as one building and is being developed by Hollywood, Florida-based AD1 Global. ([Read more](#))



## USIF's Defamation Lawsuit Thrown Out



A Jupiter-based EB-5 center's defamation lawsuit against two people who have represented some of their investors has been thrown out on jurisdictional grounds.

The U.S. Immigration Fund, which bundles money from foreign investors to be used in U.S.-based projects under the federal EB-5 program, is in an ongoing feud with a Chicago-based Chinese-American researcher named Xuejun Makhous (also known as Zoe Ma). Makhous works with disgruntled Chinese investors who want their money out of EB-5 projects, and has sued USIF for racketeering. ([Read more](#))

## Developer 'incredibly evasive' about money owed Chinese investors in failed tower

The New York-based developer behind a failed proposal to build a 42-story hotel/condominium on Superior Street says he does not have the \$562,500 he and his partners promised to one of 90 Chinese investors in the project.

The project was rejected in 2017 but the investors say they have yet to get their money back.

The investors live in China and staked \$49.5 million in the project to secure American visas through the EB-5 immigrant investor program. ([Read more](#))



## New York City Regional Center Announces Repayment of \$318 Million in Capital to EB-5 Investors



The New York City Regional Center (NYCRC) today announced that a total of \$318 million in capital has now been repaid to EB-5 investors in previous NYCRC offerings. The resulting job creation from these previous offerings enabled 2,025 individuals (EB-5 investors and family members) to receive permanent residency in the United States under the EB-5 Immigrant Investor Program.

They are among the more than 4,670 individuals worldwide who have received permanent green cards through NYCRC offerings to date. ([Read more](#))

## JDS sells Far Rockaway beachfront complex for \$33M

Treetop Development picked up Michael Stern's Saltmeadow project in Queens

Michael Stern is cashing out on a sprawling complex of luxury properties in Far Rockaway, and he found a buyer with ambitious plans for the seaside community.

For a price tag of \$33 million, Teaneck, New Jersey-based Treetop Development acquired JDS Development Group's newly built Saltmeadow development, which is comprised of 30 town homes with 60 luxury rental apartments ([Read more](#))



## Bernard Wolfsdorf on the USCIS EB-5 Investment Immigration Program



"Do due diligence of due diligence people"

Recent events may make it seem as if the American Dream has become inaccessible to immigrants. If there's one shining star that has emerged in this scenario, it is the EB-5, the investment-based immigration visa, which seeks to boost investment and job creation in the USA. Leading immigration attorney Bernard Wolfsdorf provided invaluable insight into the nitty-gritties of the process in an engaging chat at the recently concluded Global Investment Immigration Summit. ([Read more](#))



## EB-5 Project Database: Knowledge-Based Investing

[www.EB5Projects.com](http://www.EB5Projects.com)

- ➔ Search and compare to find the best Regional Center and Direct (Franchise) Investments
- ➔ Background, credit and suitability reports on the Projects, Regional Centers, Developers and Operators
- ➔ Independent research, due diligence and risk analysis reports on the investments and principals
- ➔ Invest directly: get higher quality investments at lower costs (no agents or finders)



## Pre-sales Begin Next Week for 35-story St. Pete Tower

Hoping to replicate the success of ONE St. Petersburg, a 41-story condo tower which became the city's tallest building last year, Kolter Group is preparing to launch pre-sales for its next Downtown St. Pete condo project.

First announced in January, Saltaire (previously referred to as Bayfront St. Petersburg) is a proposed 35-story condominium tower which is slated to be built on the current surface parking lot of the Hilton St. Petersburg Bayfront Hotel located at 300 1st Street South. ([Read more](#))

Related Story: [Downtown Developments April 2019: New Details on Proposed 35-story Tower and More!](#)



## EB-5 developer in Palm Beach pleads guilty to money laundering and tax evasion charges



Bob and Mia Matthews

Robert Matthews once claimed that Donald Trump and President Bill Clinton would be on the project's advisory board

Robert Matthews, the developer of the Palm House Hotel, pleaded guilty on Thursday in federal court to money laundering and tax evasion charges for defrauding foreign EB-5 investors in the Palm Beach condo-hotel project. ([Read more](#))

Related Stories:

- [Power Couple Pleads Guilty to Charges after Palm Beach EB-5 Visa Fraud](#)
- [Developer Robert Matthews pleads guilty, faces prison for multimillion-dollar real estate swindle](#)

## Failed Lucky Dragon Casino Sold for Fraction of Construction Cost

Casinos come and go in ever-changing Las Vegas, but the Lucky Dragon Casino failed after only 2 years, and was recently sold for \$36 million. The new owner, Ahern Rentals, plans to turn the doomed casino into a non-casino hotel and conference space.

All Smoke, No Fire

And the shortest-lived Las Vegas casino award goes to: Lucky Dragon Casino. ([Read more](#))



Related Story: [Failed Lucky Dragon Casino Sold for \\$36 Million to Become Non-Gaming Hotel](#)

## Amazon's Profit More Than Doubles on 17% Rise in Sales



An Amazon fulfilment center in Orlando, Fla E-commerce company's quarterly revenue growth is lowest in nearly four years

Amazon.com Inc. notched a best-ever \$3.56 billion quarterly profit as it continued to lean on higher margin businesses and put a lid on costs.

Expenses, however, are expected to jump in the second quarter in part because Amazon said it would invest \$800 million to make one-day free shipping the standard for Prime members, instead of two days. ([Read more](#))

## How they built it: Complaints about the EB-5 visa program are legitimate, but the construction of Hudson Yards is impressive and undeniable

A spectacular success.

It is true that the EB-5 visa program — by which foreign investors essentially buy green cards for themselves and their families by pouring \$500,000 or \$1 million into the U.S. economy — needs fixing.

It is true that the map New York used to get the swath of the city that would become Hudson Yards to qualify for the program is comically gerrymandered, bending over backward to link the far West Side of midtown Manhattan.

[\(Read more\)](#)



Related Stories:

- [Another Reason to Hate Hudson Yards](#)
- [Giving Hudson Yards \\$1.2B Earmarked For Poor Areas an 'Insult'](#)
- [The Financing of Hudson Yards Is Worse Than Its Architecture](#)
- [Early Arrival: Hudson Yards Funded Through Questionable Visa Practices](#)
- [New York's \\$25 billion Hudson Yards development claimed funding from a year's worth of immigrant visas — here's why it was legal](#)
- [How funding for distressed urban areas ended up in New York's Hudson Yards](#)
- [The Hidden Horror of Hudson Yards Is How It Was Financed](#)

## Sackler family takes majority control of Mount Snow



The Sackler family, facing a multitude of lawsuits for fuelling the nation's opioid epidemic, has purchased majority ownership in Mount Snow's parent company, according to Securities and Exchange Commission filings.

The Sacklers obtained 54% voting power in Peak Resorts last November through a public company called CAP 1 LLC, SEC documents show. The Deerfield Valley News first reported the Sacklers taking effective control of Mount Snow. ([Read more](#))

## U.S. Immigration Fund tops out 125 Greenwich; Developed by Bizzi & Partners and Vector Group and designed by Vinoly

Manhattan, NY In the Financial district, 125 Greenwich, a new skyline addition is swiftly rising, according to U.S. Immigration Fund. Another milestone has been reached, as 125 Greenwich topped out at 88 stories and 912 ft. The topping off ceremony was hosted by Bizzi & Partners and Douglas Elliman.

As of now, the building holds the title as the 16th tallest skyscraper under construction in NYC. ([Read more](#))



## Early Arrival: EB-5 Investors Take to WeChat to Organize Lawsuits



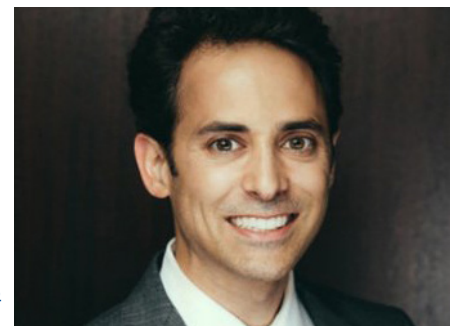
Monday's Edition of Early Arrival: Turning 18 While Undocumented — Texas Settles in Voter Fraud Lawsuits — Ending Family Separation was a 'Disaster,' Trump Says  
Shortly after the New York Wheel Ferris wheel project imploded, a group of Chinese EB-5 investors who had heavily backed it began wondering what it meant for their immigration status. ([Read more](#))

## Investors Claiming EB-5 Visa Fraud Fight with Centennial Bank to Get Money Back

Investors who say they were duped into sinking \$10 million into an office project now are fighting Centennial Bank to get some money back. The bank claims it should collect first on an \$8.5 million mortgage.

Foreigners who say they were tricked into investing \$10 million in a Royal Palm Beach office project have redirected their fight from the alleged swindlers to a bank. ([Read more](#))

Related Story: [EB-5 investors claim fraud as South Florida property faces \\$8M foreclosure](#)



# EB-5 INVESTMENTS

THE EB-5 VISA INVESTMENT MARKETPLACE

*"The Source for Information on EB-5 Visa Investments.  
Inform your clients, protect your practice."*

**GLOBAL WEBCASTS OF EB-5 PROJECTS • SEPT: NYC • OCT: LA • NOV: MIA**

Studio interviews & on-site project visits broadcast globally to inform & educate qualified investors, attorneys & advisors on EB-5 investment opportunities in compliance with U.S. securities laws & regulations.



**DATA. KNOWLEDGE. ADVICE. NO ADVERTISING EB5PROJECTS.COM**



EB5Projects.com, EB5News.com and EB5Info.com are administered by USAdvisors an independent Registered Investment Advisory (FINRA CRD #157403) firm that specializes in performing risk analysis, verification and due diligence on EB-5 visa offerings for investors, advisors and attorneys since 2007.