

NEWSLETTER | JUNE 2011

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New California EB-5 Regional Center Facing Unexpected Challenges From City

One newly-approved [EB-5 regional center](#) has its first project on indefinite hold – and the city of San Diego may be to blame.

Earlier this year, the [Wave House California Regional Center](#) was established to help the historic Belmont Park amusement park in San Diego fund infrastructure improvements. According to operator Tom Lochtefeld, the initial idea was to redevelop Belmont's popular Plunge pool hall – a public recreational facility which has severe structural problems – as well as enhance restaurants located within the park.



Giant Dipper roller coaster at Belmont Park, San Diego, California

But the city of San Diego raised the rent. Now Lochtefeld can't afford to pay what the city is asking to keep the park open.

And this is no measly rent increase. Whereas Lochtefeld was paying \$70,000 annually based on an agreement with the city, he's now being asked to pay \$500,000 each year.

"With respect to the city, it's kind of bizarre that they're doing this given the overall economic climate," said Lochtefeld in comments to EB5info.com. "I understand they need money, but on the other hand, it's very shortsighted given that we set up this whole development program that was going to create hundreds of jobs."

Until last fall, the city and Lochtefeld had an agreement under which he would pay minimal rent in exchange for investing in Belmont Park and receiving rent credits for "public improvements" like the historic Plunge structure. Since the city was reducing the cash portion of the rent received, it now claims it's merely ending a subsidy program.

"The city is trying to characterize this as a subsidy, but it was really just pre-payment of rent for public improvements, namely the city's public swimming pool" Lochtefeld explained. He has offered to spend an additional \$100,000 on temporary repairs that would allow the Plunge to re-open, [according to the San Diego Union-Tribune](#), but the city rejected that plan.

Although any effort to use immigrant investor capital to fund improvements at Belmont Park may be little more than a fanciful hope lest Lochtefeld and the city reach an agreement, there are still plans to exploit the newly-attained regional center status.

"Belmont Park is on hold, but I have other projects I'm looking at," said Lochtefeld. "It's still a ways off, though. I haven't, as yet, submitted a Form I-924 to request an amendment to our regional center."

Until then, Lochtefeld still has his hands full with the Belmont Park debacle. His operating company filed for bankruptcy in November due to the rent dispute and will go through formal foreclosure proceedings this summer. According to the Union-Tribune, he has a \$25 million claim against the city and is suing for negligence and breach of contract.

Across the top of [Belmont Park's website](#) is a red banner beseeching readers to "Save the Plunge."

Photo credit: [David Roberts](#)



Broadcast Your EB-5 Visa News to the World With a USAAdvisors.org Press Release Package

Regional centers and project managers take note:

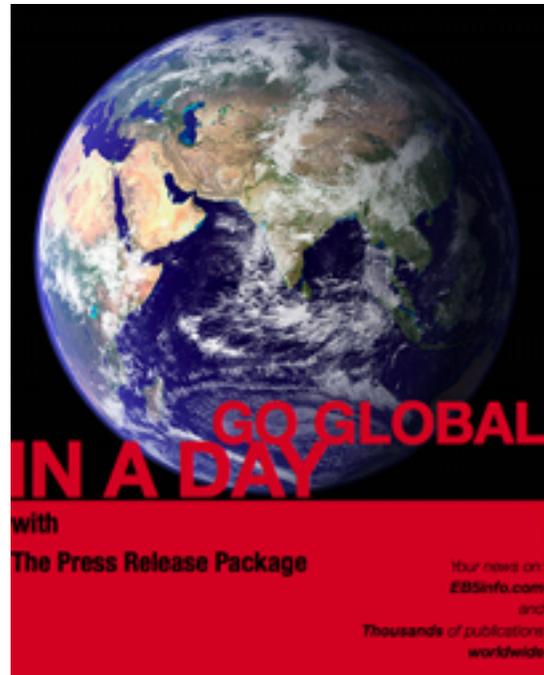
With over 2,000 news subscribers, 128 listed EB-5 firms, and nearly 100 EB-5 attorneys engaged in a dynamic online community of EB-5 experts, EB5info.com has become the Web's most comprehensive source of information about the EB-5 program.

And with USAAdvisors.org's team of experts providing unbiased risk analysis of EB-5 green card projects, we've got our finger on the pulse of the latest EB-5 news and information. Perhaps you're already submitting information to our online project database?

Now we're offering something just for project managers and regional centers.

With a USAAdvisors.org Press Release Package, you can put your EB-5 projects in front of the media, attorneys, and EB-5 investors themselves – all with zero hassle for you. Here's what you get:

- 1. Press Release Writing.** Experienced in-house copywriters obtain all the details and quotes needed for your press release. In addition to a compelling headline, you'll get a 300-400 word press release with a marketing message you're proud to put your name on.
- 2. Translation.** Are you targeting a Chinese audience? Maybe you want your news read in Latin America. Through PR Newswire's professional translation service, we can translate your news into virtually any language.
- 3. Global Distribution.** With PR Newswire's unparalleled international network, we'll distribute your news to thousands of media outlets around the globe.
- 4. EB5info.com Publication.** In addition to getting your news before the media, we'll broadcast it on all of our online channels. That includes our widely-read monthly newsletters and EB-5 news blog. Having your news on EB5info.com puts you in front of a highly targeted audience of EB-5 experts.



While most packages include distribution to multiple countries and translation into multiple languages, we can custom tailor your package to any country or language.

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USAdvisors.org Visits Immigrant Investor Projects, EB-5 Attorneys on California Road Trip



Michael Gibson with David Lu and Howard Ting of YK America Regional Center

Shortly after [last month's AILA conference in San Diego](#), USAAdvisors.org's Managing Director [Michael Gibson](#) began visiting immigration attorneys, EB-5 regional centers, and EB-5 projects across the state of California.

His road trip continues through next week (July 18-22), and there is still space on his schedule for additional appointments. Since the first week of July, USAAdvisors.org has met with the following individuals and organizations:

- Attorney Connie Wang in San Diego
- Attorney [Brandon Meyer](#) of the Meyer Law Group
- Airstream Innovations in Solana Beach California
- Attorney Eric Chilton in Los Angeles
- Attorney [David Hirson](#) in Irvine
- The Law Offices of Shawn Sedaghat in Los Angeles
- Attorney Charles Cai
- [YK America Regional Center](#) in El Monte
- Developer and regional center applicant Henry Chiao
- [American Logistics International Regional Center](#) in Carson*

This week and week and next week, Michael already has appointments with the following individuals:

- Attorney [Lincoln Stone](#)
- Attorney Ron Rehling
- Attorney Linda Lau
- Regional center applicant Rohit Ranchhod

Thanks again to everyone who has met with us thus far. We've been glad to learn more about how our due diligence services can help clients select an EB-5 project they're comfortable investing in. For regional centers, we've enjoyed the opportunity to learn more about your projects—current and upcoming.

To schedule a meeting while Michael is still in California, contact Regina Thomas: [regina \[at\] usadvisors.org](mailto:regina@usadvisors.org) or (407) 721-4687.



EB-5 Visa Program Gets Serious Attention at 2011 AILA Conference



From Left: Michael Gibson, Regina Thomas, Mike Xenick, Adam Green, George Wozencraft

Given the extraordinary growth in the EB-5 visa program over the past two years, it may go without saying that the EB-5 community was well represented at this year's AILA conference in San Diego.

At the USAdvisors.org booth, we spoke with many [immigration attorneys](#) who are seeing more interest in the program than ever before. Several attorneys had questions about which [regional centers](#) had the most [viable projects](#) and how their clients could use our services to select one.

The conference itself actually featured two sessions dedicated to EB-5 practice—one on EB-5 fundamentals and another on advanced issues in EB-5 law.

Leading the "EB-5 for Beginners" session was immigration attorney [Boyd Campbell](#), who joined AILA's EB-5 Investors Committee in calling on USCIS Director Alejandro Mayorkas

to make job creation through the EB-5 program a priority. He offered the following comments:

No one can legitimately accuse USCIS of promoting the EB-5 job creation program in a time of grave uncertainty and an agonizingly slow growth economy. On the contrary, there was ample evidence available at the 2011 AILA Annual Conference in San Diego that USCIS has no interest in job creation. High rates of denials of I-829 petitions (for the permanent green card) and challenges to states' designation of targeted employment areas, which strike at the heart of the EB-5 Program, are mounting evidence of the agency's callous disregard for this potentially robust job-creating engine.



Attorney Boyd Campbell with Michael Gibson

In addition to the EB-5-focused sessions, [Brian Su](#) of the Artisan Business Group hosted a separate [EB-5 Business "Boot Camp"](#) with speakers representing all corners of the EB-5 program. Michael Gibson of [USAdvisors.org](#) opened the event with a call to [join IIUSA](#), the EB-5 program's advocacy and best practices group.

According to attorney [Jose Latour](#), "the opportunity to share war stories" with "Boot Camp" attendees "who are seeing the ongoing mutation of EB-5 adjudication practices [was] priceless." Jose [writes more about Brian Su's event](#) on his immigration law blog.

In typical USAAdvisors.org fashion, we managed to outdo ourselves with the booth. As if one television wasn't enough, our heavy-duty configuration was equipped with three sets displaying information about [our EB-5 project database](#) and images from our [Chinese-language site](#). Assembling the booth, however, was no easy feat:



From our vantage point in the booth, where we stayed from from June 14-18, we spoke to immigration attorneys, regional center operators, and other professionals in the EB-5 community about our due diligence services for EB-5 immigrant investors.

[Phil Cohen](#) of Strategic Element Consulting and [Kevin Jeffers](#) of Pinnint Ltd. also helped us work the booth. Phil writes business plans for emerging EB-5 regional centers, and Kevin develops EB-5 marketing and sales plans for Chinese audiences. Special thanks also goes to [George Wozencraft](#), who served as our advocate and greeted visitors to the booth.

Several attendees also managed to stop by [our hospitality suite](#) to chat and enjoy refreshments.



Above: Jeff Carr with Michael Gibson; Below: John Li of EB5Supermarket with Michael Gibson and Mike Xenick

Guests included [Jeff Carr](#) of Economic and Policy Resources, attorneys Boyd Campbell and [Stephen Yale-Loehr](#), Kraig Schwigen of [CMB Regional Center](#), Bill Gresser of the [Upstate New York Regional Center](#), Brian Terwilliger of [NES Financial](#), and John Li of [EB5 Supermarket](#).

Also in attendance was attorney [Kristina Rost](#), who offered the following comments on the AILA conference:

AILA 2011 did not disappoint. As always, the sessions and activities were bustling. Attending it is a great way to 'tune up' your expertise, get the latest news on your most interesting subjects, mingle with colleagues and friends, learn about new services and deepen the relationship with your business affiliates.

We were also pleased to introduce [Mike Xenick](#), our broker-dealer, to conference attendees. Mike will be helping us perform due diligence and connect with immigrant investors in China and around the world.

Thanks again to everyone who worked with us at the conference. We look forward to your continued support.



Register Now for the IIUSA International Investment and Economic Development Forum

The following announcement comes from Peter Joseph and IIUSA:

I am pleased to report that we are expecting to host the biggest, most diverse EB-5 and international economic development industry event of summer 2011 at the [IIUSA EB-5 International Investment & Economic Development Forum](#) in Seattle, WA on 8/11-8/12.



Spaces are filling up quickly for this world class event, with just about six weeks away until we kick off with a dinner cruise around the Seattle Harbor. So, please plan ahead and don't delay in registering for the conference!

[CLICK HERE to visit the event registration page.](#)

Expert panelists and exhibitors from all over the world representing many industry disciplines will be in attendance, including:

- [American Life, Inc.](#)
- [Artisan Business Group, Inc.](#)
- [Baker Donelson](#)
- Blue Ribbon Redevelopment Group
- Burr and Forman
- Cansine Immigration Consulting
- [CMB Regional Centers](#)
- Economic Modeling Specialist, Inc.
- GrayLoeffler, LLC
- [Homeier & Law, PC](#)
- [Invest U.S. Regional Center](#)
- [Jay Peak Resort](#)
- [Klasko, Rulon, Stock & Seltzer](#)
- [NES Financial](#)
- [New York State EB-5 Regional Center](#)
- Oleet & Co.
- Peng & Weber
- Von Trapp Family Lodge
- [Wright Johnson, LLC](#)

All attendees will leave knowing what the expert practitioners are doing to be successful in our industry. Attorneys can receive CLE credits for attending. All attendees will receive a certificate of attendance upon completion of the afternoon seminar.

We will also discuss the forthcoming EB-5 reform legislation that IIUSA continues to work on with Congress. It is now in its final stages and will likely be introduced this summer, with much to discuss. There are multiple pieces of EB-5 policy and procedure in flux right now. This event is the best way for you to take part in the industry discussion that is going on among the EB-5 professionals who make up IIUSA.

We already have some dynamite keynote speakers lined up, including:

- Jim Kastama, WA State Senator (25th District); Chair, Economic Development, Trade & Innovation Committee; Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee; Ways & Means Committee
- Doug Ericksen, WA State Senator (42nd District); Economic Development, Trade & Innovation Committee; Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee
- And others to be announced

This promises to be **the biggest** EB-5 event of the summer, a place where business gets done, collective interests are identified and worked on, and industry development is

furthered thanks to the interaction of industry professionals committed to regulatory compliance.

IIUSA is the only EB-5 Regional Center Program trade association dedicated to such a mission.

We believe in the Program and its ability to spur economic development for the long term, as long as we find our areas of common interest as an industry. Come join us in Seattle and be a part of something big! Our country needs this Program to succeed as part of the 21st century U.S. economy.

[CLICK HERE AND REGISTER FOR THE CONFERENCE TODAY!](#)



Attorney Reza Rahbaran Describes Today's EB-5 Visa Landscape in Interview

While every EB-5 law practice is different, most attorneys face similar challenges.

Their clients come from abroad and are now dealing not only with a foreign immigration system, but also a foreign investment opportunity in a foreign business climate. Getting a handle on the whole EB-5 visa process, which even Americans will agree is complicated, is easier said than done. These are issues all EB-5 practitioners must confront.



EB-5 Attorney Reza Rahbaran

But some attorneys deal with additional challenges. In practices that draw clients from a certain country or countries, for instance, attorneys must understand the particularities of working with clients from a specific part of the world. They may even have to know the language.

In the case of attorney [Reza Rahbaran](#), that country is Iran. While his staff at [Rahbaran LLC](#) speaks French and Russian in addition to English, Reza himself speaks fluent Farsi

and offers preparation of OFAC applications – an undertaking required of any Iranian bringing capital from Iran to the United States.

In our interview, Reza talks about his unique position working with clients from Iran. He also discusses some recent challenges and triumphs for attorneys navigating the EB-5 green card program.

Question: What are some of the chief concerns clients have about the EB-5 program?

Answer: One question that immediately comes to mind is this one: Will I get my money back and if not, do I get to keep my green card? It's certainly a fair question. Nobody wishes to part with half a million dollars and, worse yet, end up in removal proceedings because of a "material" change.

Clients are perplexed as to why they should be denied lawful permanent residence if they make a "good faith" investment in an approved regional center project and, through no fault of their own, the investment does not produce adequate jobs due to changes in the economic climate or some failings of the regional center.

Lawful permanent residency through the EB-5 visa program carries both financial and immigration risk. Unfortunately, USCIS does not distinguish between the immigration obligations of the investor and the business obligations of the regional center. It is a marriage, and, in the absence of due diligence and guidance from an experienced EB-5 lawyer, the result may be regrettable.

Despite the financial success that clients have enjoyed in their home country, doing business in a foreign land is difficult even for the most seasoned entrepreneur. Investors face a multitude of problems beyond the difference in culture. Since most regional center documents are printed in English, many details are "lost in translation," and some financial instruments and methods simply do not exist in the investor's home country. Some investors are unable to visit regional centers due to the difficulty in obtaining a visitor visa; this is especially the case for Iranian nationals.

It is paramount that the investors really understand what the inherent financial and immigration risks are. How are those risks mitigated? What safeguards are in place for non-performance of project owners? What has been the performance of the regional center, both from a financial and immigration standpoint? Who are the principals? What are their backgrounds? Is there collateral for the investor? Is the investment equity or debt-based and what is the difference? Successful investors ask questions, or have attorneys who do.

Q: How do you address these issues?

A: Since we deal with many Iranian clients, problems specific to our firm include OFAC issues and transfers of capital out of Iran. Clients are often unaware that they are required to have an OFAC license and are eager to get started with their EB-5 investment. They may not realize that it takes 4 months to get the license.

At Rahbaran LLC, whilst we prepare and file the OFAC application, I find that the 4-month wait is a perfect opportunity for the client to review the process, feel comfortable with his or her investment project, and brush up on English language skills so that the transition to the United States will be smoother. This is especially useful for applicants who require OFAC licensing since this burden adds another 4 months to their entire immigration process. Furthermore, it may improve cash flow for regional centers that utilize escrow accounts.

It also gives investors time to arrange for the imminent transfer of their investment funds to the United States. Like many Middle Eastern and North African countries, Iran has an informal money transfer system called Sarrafi. This system is based on the performance and honor of a network of international money brokers. No promissory instruments are exchanged and the transactions rely entirely on the honor system.

With Iranian state controls on the transfer of capital out of Iran and UN sanctions on many Iranian banks, investors have to rely on these brokers to facilitate the process. It is a delicate process of making sure no OFAC rules are broken and maintaining the money trails for the transfer.

Q: For attorneys, what are the greatest challenges when it comes to making the program work for clients?

A: Having documentation for Source of Funds is one issue I think many attorneys face. Most clients are not from Western-style business cultures where banking and other pertinent documents are available electronically and require little effort to obtain. Some clients have sold assets prior to consulting an experienced EB-5 attorney and may not have collected the necessary documentation; others may not be eager to share their entire financial information largely due to their social environment.

If the sale of an asset is planned ahead of time, it can be successfully documented and proven lawful, but most clients have not been keeping records with the view of one day immigrating to the United States through the EB-5 program. In any case, a thorough explanation as to the reasoning behind the law always helps clients understand the type of evidence required to satisfy USCIS of the lawfulness of their funds and determine the assets that would be most suitable for their investment.

Q: What do you think are the most significant changes the EB-5 program has seen in the past 6 months?

A: Especially useful for job creation models, USCIS has agreed it will count indirect jobs created outside the geographical boundaries of the Regional Center.

USCIS has also expanded the EB-5 processing team, which in due course may result in faster processing times.

Especially exciting for me is the proposal of EB-5 premium processing that could cut application-processing times dramatically. This is especially useful for applicants who require OFAC licensing since this burden adds another 4 months to their entire immigration process.

In the [June EB-5 Stakeholder Meeting](#), USCIS also mentioned that it is currently reviewing how it considers TEA designations by individual states. If the agency is determined to review each TEA designation and contest states' TEA designations, some regional centers and investors could experience problems.

At [last month's AILA conference in San Diego](#), I heard that USCIS has suggested TEA designation should fall under its own authority, a change that would render states' designations immaterial. While that may only be a rumor, it is certainly a matter to keep an eye on.

Q: You have mentioned there is a lot of misinformation being broadcast to your audience in Iran. Could you describe what you're referring to and why it's harmful?

A: Due to the fierce competition among EB-5 brokers to obtain clients, some have misinformed clients as to the actual amount of funds required for the EB-5 program. Some have even said the investment threshold is as low as \$380,000.

It can be especially harmful to those individuals who do not consult with an experienced EB-5 attorney and may take significant steps to immigrate to the United States only to find out that they do not have the investment funds required.

Q: What do you tell clients when they ask which EB-5 project they should invest in?

A: All clients are different. This will be contingent on their investment objectives and appetite for risk. If making a profit is their priority, I suggest pursuing an individual EB-5 application under the regular program. Otherwise, a thorough review of all application materials until the financial and immigration risks are unearthed is paramount to making the correct choice for each individual investor.

If the client were unable to understand the financial risks, I would recommend retaining the services of a financial consultancy such as [USAdvisors.org](#).

Reza Rahbaran is the Principal Attorney at Rahbaran LLC, an EB-5 law firm in Washington D.C. If you are an EB-5 practitioner interested in being interviewed for EB5info.com, please contact Adam Green: adam [at] usadvisors.org.



3 Insights From the June 2011 EB-5 Investment Visa Stakeholder Meeting

For the EB-5 community, it's "that time" again.

With the USCIS June 2011 Stakeholder Meeting now over, EB-5 practitioners and experts are already talking about the agency's responses to EB-5-related questions and about just how helpful – or unhelpful – those responses were.

The June meeting was via teleconference only. According to attorney [Jose Latour](#), callers' "domain expertise" [ran the gamut from EB-5 rookie to seasoned expert](#).



This stakeholder meeting was also the first since AILA's EB-5 Investors Committee called on USCIS to make job creation through the EB-5 program a priority. Many at [last month's AILA conference](#) lamented the high rates of I-829 denials and challenges to state's TEA designations.

[Suzanne Lazicki](#), who writes EB-5 business plans, [described the meeting](#) as "disastrous" and the meeting notes as infused with "inconclusive and error-ridden material."

For the moment, the Q&A notes seem to be missing from the USCIS website (Suzanne Lazicki suspects the agency wants to make some corrections before re-releasing them), but the Law Offices of Rajiv S. Khanna [have made them available](#).

Although the entire document is 20 pages long with 25 questions and answers, the following three "insights" stand apart from the rest:

1. Comingled Funds

Issues involving the source of funds for an EB-5 visa project have become increasingly troublesome of late.

By law, all EB-5 investors must be able to prove that the funds they invest in a particular project were derived from lawful sources. Due to varying factors – be they local customs or

a cultural aversion to documenting how money arrived in a particular bank account – proving the lawful acquisition of an investor's funds can be a truly arduous process.

Related to the source of investor funds is also the notion of "comingled" funds: money that won't actually be contributing to the EB-5 investment itself but that is sitting in an account with an investor's EB-5 funds.

A questioner wanted to confirm that investors did not need to prove the source of funds for any money "comingling" with the actual EB-5 investment dollars. Here is the USCIS response:

The source of comingled funds in an investor's account may need to be documented in order to demonstrate compliance with 8 CFR 204.6(e) and 8 CFR 204.6(j)(3) in certain circumstances. Oftentimes, the transfer of investment funds involves multiple transactions from different sources. It may not be apparent from the initial record which funds are for the EB-5 investment and which funds are to be used for other purposes. In addition, 8 CFR 204.6(g)(1) requires that the source of all of the EB-5 and non-EB-5 capital in the EB-5 capital investment project must be identified and shown to have been derived from lawful means.

So if USCIS determines that it isn't "apparent from the initial record" that a particular block of funds isn't specifically designated for the EB-5 project, investors will still need to provide source documentation for those funds.

How to ensure such a distinction really is "apparent from the initial record" may be a good question for the next stakeholder meeting.

2. "Saved" Jobs?

For this item, the USCIS response is perhaps less interesting than the question itself:

It is our understanding that when EB-5 investor money provides some of the funds for a business, the EB-5 investors get credit for all the jobs saved or created. Is this true?

Saved or created? Unfortunately, in answering the question, the agency omitted the issue of saved jobs. Acknowledging that "creation of at least 10 full-time positions" is sufficient, USCIS failed to discuss whether projects can use EB-5 funds to rescue employees who otherwise would have lost their positions.

A lot of regional center principals would love to know whether saved jobs "count."

3. Expenditure models, TEA's, and documentation

Another questioner asked what kind of documentation is required at the I-829 stage to demonstrate indirect job creation with an expenditure model and whether it mattered if some of the foundational facts stated in the economic report actually occurred or not.

USCIS' response was vague. While noting that the "investor's I-829 petition [...] needs to be supported by evidence showing that the funds were expended in the job-creating activities outlined within the Form I-526," the agency's answer to the second part of that question seems a bit inscrutable:

The impacts on the ultimate outcome of a given I-829 in the event that some of the foundation facts on which the economic report was based have occurred and others have not are dependent on the specific fact pattern of the case.

In other words, it depends.

A similarly obscure response accompanied a question about why EB-5 investors in a TEA would be asked to prove the source of funds for amounts in excess of their \$500,000 EB-5 investment. After all, if the investor is investing the minimum \$500,000, why would he or she need to prove the source of funds for any amount greater than that?

The USCIS response:

8 CFR 204.6(j)(3) Capital Obtained through Lawful Means: is concerned with 'capital' as opposed to 'required capital.' As such the EB-5 petitioner should submit evidence of the lawful source of any capital invested into an EB-5 investment project. In addition, 8 CFR 204.6(g)(1) requires that the source of all of the EB-5 and non-EB-5 capital must be identified and shown to have been derived from lawful means.

That sounds fine, but why is the EB-5 investor being asked to show the source of funds for any amount in excess of his or her actual investment? The initial question even began with a request for clarification on the minimum investment amount for a TEA investor – an indication that adjudicators were requesting that an investor prove the lawful source of funds for amounts beyond what the investor was actually putting into the project.

If these vague responses are any indicator, the biggest insight from the June 2011 Stakeholder Meeting may not be anything EB-5 visa experts can glean from the Q&A document alone.

It may be that common criticisms of USCIS' evasiveness are, in fact, legitimate.



EB-5 Regional Centers Nationwide Make Headlines in June

With many cities in desperate need of economic stimulation, several development companies are turning to foreign funding sources for their projects.

While other communities are eagerly awaiting approval from USCIS to open new regional centers that will provide companies with foreign investor funding through the EB5 visa program, one whose regional center was unable to comply with EB5 program requirements is now willing to take on the federal government in court to get its regional center reinstated.

A sharp increase in the number of regional centers has led to some concerns that many centers, knowingly or not, may not have the best interest of the investor in mind. The city of Victorville, California made headlines twice during the month of June, with news that the city was not going to take the termination of its regional center lying down.



Victorville, California

The [Victorville Regional Center](#) was closed last October [in response to findings that the city was not adhering to USCIS requirements for job creation](#). The Victorville Daily Press announced that the city plans to file a civil suit against The Department of Homeland Security and USCIS to get its EB5 visa investor program back.

On a more positive note, Oregon received federal agency approval last month to open the state's first EB5 regional center. The East Oregonian reported that The Oregon Regional Center, operated by the American United Development Group, [will distribute immigrant investor capital to the entire state](#). The center is expected to draw in millions from foreign investors and boost employment statewide.

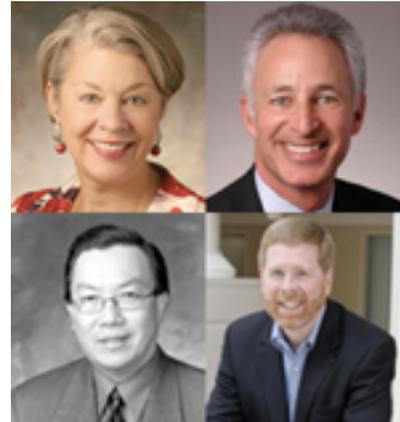
Also making regional center news, the [Amarillo Globe-News reported that Wallace Bajjali Development Partners is currently considering the EB-5 visa program](#) to help fund a downtown redevelopment project in Amarillo, Texas. The firm is currently in discussion with Civitas Capital Management, third-party manager of the City of Dallas Regional Center, to consider pursuing the addition of a regional center in Amarillo.

ABIL Hosts Part II of EB-5 Webinar Series

On July 6, the [Alliance of Business Immigration Lawyers](#) (ABIL) hosted the second installment of its three-part webinar series dedicated to the EB-5 program's intricacies.

In April, four prominent EB-5 immigration lawyers explained EB-5 basics and touched on such topics as [investor due diligence](#) and potential [source of funds](#) "issues" in the first part of the webinar series.

This time around, ABIL featured attorneys [Laura Danielson](#) of the firm Fredrikson & Byron, P.A., [Bryan Funai](#) of MasudaFunai, [H. Ronald Klasko](#) of Klasko, Rulon, Stock & Seltzer, LLP, and [Steve Trow](#) of Trow & Rahal, P.C. in a thorough and informative discussion of EB-5 issues.



Clockwise from top left: Laura Danielson, Ronald Klasko, Steve Trow, Bryan Funai

All of these attorneys are experienced and established EB-5 practitioners. To say that they know a thing or two about making the program work for their clients would be an understatement.

But this installment in the webinar series wasn't simply a repeat of topics covered during the first session. According to ABIL, the discussion included the following topics:

- The EB-5 regional center application process, which has changed considerably from how it worked just a year ago
- What individuals at all levels of the EB-5 visa program must know about project pre-approval petitions

Prices for additional sessions and for recordings of the previous session are also listed on ABIL's website.

Attendees at all sessions receive a copy of the Powerpoint presentation that accompanies the webinar, pertinent EB-5-related articles and reference materials, and a recording of the session.

Whether you're an individual immigrant investor, a regional center operator, an attorney, or an actual or potential EB-5 project manager, the information presented in these sessions will only be to your benefit.

Follow this link to register for the next session. The next webinar will take place on Monday, August 16 at 3:00 PM ET.

**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**

EB5info.com

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