New Green Cards Being Issued

By Bruce Buchanan, Partner-in-Charge, Immigration Law Section

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced, on May 12, 2010, it has redesigned the Permanent Resident Card - commonly known as the "Green Card" - to incorporate several major new security features.

State-of-the-art technology incorporated into the new card prevents counterfeiting, obstructs tampering, and facilitates quick and accurate authentication. The enhanced features will better serve law enforcement, employers, and immigrants. Among the benefits of the redesign: (1) secure optical media, which will store biometrics for rapid and reliable identification of the card holder; (2) holographic images; (3) laser engraved fingerprints; and (4) high resolution micro-images. All of these features will make the card nearly impossible to reproduce. Tighter integration of the card design with personalized elements will make it difficult to alter the card if stolen. Radio Frequency Identification capability will allow Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers at ports of entry to read the card from a distance and compare it immediately to file data.

In keeping with the Permanent Resident Card's nickname, it will now be colored green for easy recognition. USCIS will replace Green Cards already in circulation as individuals apply for renewal or replacement. Beginning immediately, the USCIS will issue all Green Cards in the new, more secure format.

Below is an example of the new Green card.