

“We Need to End US Immigration Processing Delays” by Adam Edward Rothwell, Esq.

It’s pretty common knowledge that the US immigration system is broken. So while there are a wide range of opinions as to what needs to be done to fix the US immigration system, at least there is widespread agreement that something needs to be done.

As an immigration lawyer, I often get asked to identify the biggest problem with the immigration system, and identifying the biggest problem in our broken system is not easy. Especially since lawyers are prone to giving 40 minute answers to five minute questions. Still I invariably say one of the biggest problems my clients with active immigration applications pending may run into are processing delays.

There is nothing worse than being without status and having no possible application that may be filed to provide status. However, for anyone or any entity with a pending application, delays that too often occur in processing immigration applications are ridiculous, extremely stressful, time consuming and costly.

If a US Citizen applies for an immediate relative overseas, it is utterly ridiculous that there should be an extended delay of many months for the relative to be able to apply for an immigrant visa, more or less to enter the US. And if USCIS and/or the US Department of State cannot process cases fast enough, these departments should charge more money for applications, hire more people and get the cases done.

When someone really wants a close relative to come to the US, he/she is always willing to pay more filing fees to have the process completed as fast as possible.

I am very pro-business and support free markets. Still on another note it is nonsense that businesses are allowed to pay premium processing fees to hire workers but that US Citizens and permanent residents are unable to pay premium processing fees for their foreign spouses. Why does Microsoft in Redmond, Washington for example have the opportunity to receive quicker processing for a petition filed on behalf of a foreign engineer with potentially no US connections than a US Citizen in Redmond, Washington may receive for a foreign spouse?

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