

## **President Bush Signs Spousal Work Authorization Measures into Law**

On January 16th, 2002, President Bush signed into law two bills (**H.R. 2277 and H.R. 2278**) allowing spouses of international transferees, treaty traders, and treaty investors to work in the U.S.

**H.R. 2277** provides work authorization to the spouses of E visa holders.

**H.R.2278** provides work authorization to the spouses of L visa holders and reduces the amount of time that an employee must be continuously employed by a company before being eligible for an L visa. The "pre-employment requirement" previously required a minimum of one year of continuous employment with the company during the three-year period preceding the application for admission, in order for an employee to be eligible for an L visa. Under the new law, the pre-employment requirement is reduced to six months **only for those L visas processed under a valid L Blanket.**

While the USCIS has not yet finalized its guidance, individuals wishing to take advantage of the new legislation will be required to obtain an employment authorization document (EAD). Presumably, procedures for obtaining the EAD will be contained in the forthcoming guidance. Please call us (1-800-437-7313) to discuss the latest information.