

## **U Visas**

Written by Tiya Law

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1. U visas are temporary visas for victims (direct or indirect victims, or witnesses, and depending on criteria) of qualifying criminal activity. The victim should also:

(a) Possess credible and reliable information establishing that (s)he has knowledge of the details concerning the qualifying criminal activity which the U visa is based on; and

(b) Have been, is being and/or is likely to be helpful to a certifying agency in the investigation or prosecution of the qualifying criminal activity; and

(c) The qualifying criminal activity: (i) occurred in the U.S. or U.S. possession, or U.S. territories; or (ii) violated a U.S. federal law that provides for extraterritorial jurisdiction.

2. U visa holders are eligible for employment authorization.

3. U visa status allow the visa holders to eventually apply for U.S. permanent residence status or green card.

4. Family members and non-spouse partner (regardless of gender) of temporary visa holders may join them in the U.S., depending on the criteria.

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*Tiya PLC is a U.S. professional law practice specializing in U.S. immigration law.*

*Ms. Kok and Tiya PLC provide legal representation to foreign nationals, individuals and their families, employers and companies in all stages and aspects of green card and work visa matters.*