

## GREEN CARDS FOR PHYSICAL THERAPISTS

PROVIDE PEACE OF MIND AND SECURITY FOR ESSENTIAL HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

Maiona Ward Immigration Law is a boutique law firm headquartered in the Financial District of Boston, Massachusetts. Our lawyers have over 25 years of experience in quickly obtaining non-immigrant visas and legal permanent residency for physical therapists and other *Schedule A* allied health care professionals. Maiona Ward represents hospitals, physician/medical organizations and medical professionals across the United States to assist with non-immigrant visas and green card processing on behalf of essential medical personnel.

The attorneys at Maiona Ward are members of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and have been recognized by *Boston Magazine* as well as others for their knowledge of immigration law. Maiona Ward will provide your organization and employees with the peace of mind needed while quickly and professionally obtaining the immigration status required to maintain your high standard of patient care into the future.

For more information please call Attorney Matthew Maiona at 617-695-2220.



### MAIONA WARD PC IMMIGRATION LAW

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Legal Permanent Residency (green card): HR departments understand that it is difficult to find qualified US-born physical therapists (PT). Frequently hospitals and rehabilitation organizations are turning to foreign-born and educated PTs to fill the gaps for this essential health care role. Once the foreign-born PT is hired and working pursuant to a valid non-immigrant status (H-1B, H-1B1, E-3 or TN), the employer must turn to the next step in securing the long-term employment of the PT.

The process for obtaining legal permanent residency (green card) in the United States for a foreign-born PT is quite different than most occupations. The biggest difference for a PT, because it is considered a Schedule A, Group 1 occupation (that is a pre-certified occupation which has a continuous shortage of qualified US applicants), is that there is no requirement to go through the usual PERM/labor certification process with the US Department of Labor. This means that the employer of the PT can immediately file an I-140 immigrant visa and if the employment-based category is current (depending on job requirements for EB-2 or EB-3), the PT can concurrently file the I-485 adjustment of status (green card) application as well. In the end, this could mean that a foreign-born PT who has a masters degree could have a green card within one year of filing under certain conditions such as a “current” employment-based category and perhaps the use of US Citizenship and Immigration Service’s (USCIS) Premium Processing services to obtain an approval of the immigrant visa quickly.

Maiona Ward can help in permanently securing the qualified health care professionals your medical organization requires to provide a high standard of care to your patients into the future.

*Immigration Attorneys Representing Employers, Employees and Families Around the World.*

Non-Immigrant Visas: Most physical therapist positions qualify for non-immigrant visas under the H-1B classification, H-1B1 for Chile and Singapore, E-3 for Australia and the TN (NAFTA) classification for Canada and Mexico. The non-immigrant visa is the first step in securing valid working status for the foreign-born PT. Upon hiring a foreign-born PT, make certain that state licensure requirements have been met and that the PT has a relevant educational background that is equal to a US bachelors or masters degree. Securing this information as soon as possible will make the non-immigrant visa process move more quickly.

As in all immigration matters, Maiona Ward can assist in obtaining the initial non-immigrant visa so that the process is not time consuming and burdensome for the employer, as well as quick and efficient for the new PT.

