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Breakfast Seminar: It is a Whole New World

Wildes & Weinberg focused on the complex issues of immigration enforcement on Tuesday, April 20.

Roxanne Levine, Esq., Partner, hosted the breakfast and networking event at the offices of the firm. The presentation, "It's a Whole New World: Everything You Need to Know About Immigration Enforcement Under the Obama Administration," was an expansive overview of immigration law as it relates to visas and immigration status.

There are a number of non-immigrant visas, in different classifications, which have various time restrictions and designations: numerous classifications were identified and explained to the group including the Specialty Occupation Workers (H-1B), of special interest to the group. The H-1B visa pertains to professionals with a specialized knowledge, and is critical in today's competitive business

climate. The U.S. currently has an annual cap of 65,000 applications, with some amendments and exemptions. Other classifications, including those in specialized fields such as artists and athletes; trainees and interns; intracompany transferees; procedures for green card applications, and employment preference designations were also described in the presentation.

Ms. Levine noted increased efforts to identify fraudulent petitions

through unannounced site inspections, stringent audits, and other employment compliance regulations. In addition, border entry points are placed under increased scrutiny. Additional associated issues including tax considerations were also addressed.

Many questions were raised by attendees, ably answered by Ms. Levine, Michael J. Wildes, Managing Partner and Leon Wildes, Founder & Senior Partner.



Ask the Members

As we are close to reaching the half way mark of this economically fluctuating year, we asked our members the following: "Has the economic recovery been reflected in your company's business?"



Kenneth Makovsky
President
Makovsky + Company
"Yes, we are seeing increasing strength in our technology, health, and financial services sectors."



Peter Mersmann
SVP of Sales & Marketing
Stora Enso
"Yes, to some extent. We do see some recovery in advertising spending and retail sales which we benefit from. However, it is too early to speak about a sustainable economic recovery."



Håkan Swahn
President
Aquavit, Inc.
"Our business in the high end segment is recovering but very slowly while the lower end, like AQ Kafe, has enjoyed a tremendous upswing in the last few months."



Olof Tenghoff
President
ROOM Real Estate
"Yes, the economic recovery has had a direct effect to our ability to sell property here in New York. April 2010 was a clear upswing."



Jonas Åkerman
President & CEO
BTS USA, Inc.
"Absolutely. Even though we had decent growth last year, this year's growth is at the pace that we almost can't hire people to keep up with the pace."