



TRIBUTE TO MY GURU



As I turn 45 this 9th April, and founder of Vipul Joshi and Associates completes two years of its journey, this moment feels truly special, not only as a personal and professional milestone, but also as we mark the release of the first edition of our newsletter. It is both a reflection of our journey so far and a step forward into a new chapter of sharing knowledge and experiences.

On such an occasion, I find it only fitting to reflect on the foundation of this journey. For me, that foundation is my senior, mentor, Dr. Sudhir Shah, Advocate under whose guidance I had the privilege of working for nearly two decades.

Those years were not just about learning the law, but about understanding its deeper values, integrity, discipline, precision, and an unwavering commitment to clients. Whatever I can practice today, and whatever I continue to build through this firm, is deeply rooted in the lessons I learned during those formative years. His mentorship was not limited to professional growth; it instilled in me the confidence to take independent steps, the resilience to navigate challenges, and the clarity to uphold ethical practice at all times.

As my firm completes two years, I see it not merely as an achievement, but as a continuation of those very values. Every client we guide, every case we handle, carries forward a legacy that began long before this firm was established.

This first edition of our newsletter is, therefore, not just an initiative; it is an extension of that journey, an effort to share insights, knowledge, and experiences with a wider community. On this milestone, I express my deepest gratitude to my mentor, whose guidance has been the cornerstone of my journey.

This moment is not just a celebration of where I stand today, but a tribute to where it all began; it belongs to the mentor who shaped me and who now guides me from heaven.



UNDERSTANDING: B1/B2 TEMPORARY VISA (USA)

This is the most popular visa choice and perhaps most used visa when visiting USA, the **B1/B2 temporary visitor visa**. The B1/B2 visa is a combined non-immigrant visa meant for short-term travel to the United States.

The B1 visa is designed for business activities, such as attending meetings, conferences, or negotiating contracts, while the B2 visa is for tourism, visiting family or friends, or receiving medical treatment.



Apply for a B1/B2 visa begins with confirming that your travel purpose qualifies under business (B1) or tourism/medical (B2) categories. You then complete the online DS-160 application form and pay the required visa fee. Next, schedule an interview at the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate, and prepare supporting documents such as your passport, DS-160 confirmation, travel itinerary, and proof of strong ties to your home country. During the interview, you'll answer questions about your travel plans, and the consular officer will decide on your eligibility. If approved, your passport will be returned with the visa, allowing you to travel to the U.S., though the final length of stay is determined at the port of entry.

A screenshot of a U.S. Department of State Nonimmigrant Visa Application status page. The page is titled "U.S. Department of State NONIMMIGRANT VISA APPLICATION" and shows a status of "Refused". It includes fields for "Application ID or Case Number:", "Case Created:", and "Case Last Updated: 12-Sep-2025". A text box at the bottom explains the refusal and provides instructions for the applicant to follow, including a link to the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi for more information.

A B1/B2 visa application may sometimes be refused under **Section 214(b)** of the U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act. This provision assumes that all applicants are intending immigrants unless they can demonstrate sufficient ties to their home country such as employment, family, property, or other commitments that ensure they will return after a temporary visit.

A refusal under **214(b)** is not permanent, and applicants may reapply after providing additional supporting documentation or addressing the concerns noted by the consular officer. This process is standard and reflects the U.S. government's requirement to verify the temporary nature of the visit.

TIP: CLEARLY DEMONSTRATE YOUR STRONG TIES TO YOUR HOME COUNTRY TO SUPPORT YOUR TEMPORARY STAY IN THE U.S

SCOPE AND THE RISKS OF OVERSTAY

Authored by Rida F. Moledina & Rebecca Pereira



The B1/B2 visa, issued by the U.S. Department of State, is one of the most commonly used non-immigrant visas, allowing individuals to travel to the United States for short-term business or tourism purposes. The B1 category covers activities such as attending meetings, conferences, and professional engagements, while the B2 category is intended for tourism, family visits, or medical treatment.

It is important to understand that, under **Section 214(b)** of the Immigration and Nationality Act, every applicant is presumed to be an intending immigrant unless they can establish otherwise. Therefore, factors such as stable employment, financial standing, and family or social ties play a crucial role in securing approval.

While obtaining the visa is an important step, compliance with its conditions after entry is equally critical. One of the most significant aspects often overlooked by travellers is the authorised duration of stay, which is determined at the port of entry and recorded in the I-94, not by the visa stamp itself. This distinction becomes particularly important in the context of visa overstay.

KEY TAKEAWAY: SECURING A B1/B2 VISA IS ONLY THE FIRST STEP; STRICT ADHERENCE TO ITS CONDITIONS, PARTICULARLY REGARDING DURATION OF STAY, IS ESSENTIAL TO AVOID SERIOUS LEGAL CONSEQUENCES.

From a practical standpoint, applicants and visa holders should ensure clarity regarding their permitted stay, maintain consistency in their travel purpose, and take timely legal advice if extensions or status changes are required. Careful compliance not only safeguards one's current visit but also preserves future immigration opportunities. In many cases, overstay arise from misunderstandings

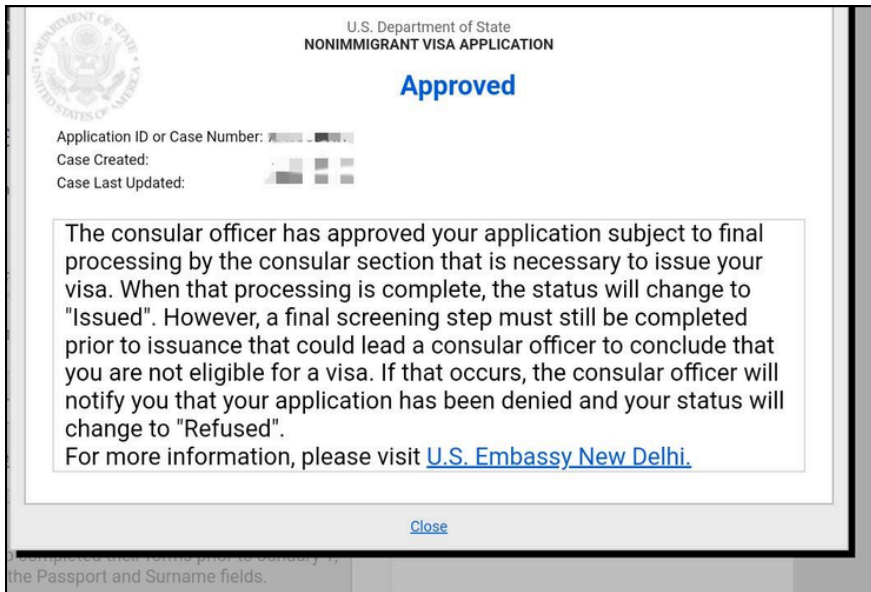


such as assuming that a valid visa allows continued stay, or due to unforeseen personal circumstances. U.S. immigration authorities adopt a strict approach, and even unintentional violations can have long-term implications.

At Vipul Joshi and Associates, we assist clients in understanding both the application process and post-entry obligations, ensuring that their travel remains legally compliant and free from avoidable complications.

CASE STUDY : FROM REFUSAL TO APPROVAL

THE IMPORTANCE OF CLARITY AND PREPARATION



A client, a professional editor and cinematographer known for working on high-profile wedding films for prominent personalities such as the Ambani family and Rakul Preet Singh, had initially applied for a B1/B2 visa independently. Despite having a strong professional background, his application was refused during the visa interview. The primary issue was not eligibility, but presentation.

During his first interview, the applicant was unable to clearly articulate the purpose of his travel to the United States and the intended duration of his stay. Additionally, he was uncertain about how much information to disclose, leading to hesitation and a lack of clarity in his responses. This raised concerns regarding his intent, ultimately resulting in a refusal.

Subsequently, the client approached Vipul Joshi and Associates for legal assistance. Our team conducted a detailed assessment of his case and identified gaps in the earlier application. We assisted in accurately preparing and reviewing the DS-160 applications for the client, his mother, and his brother, ensuring consistency and clarity across all submissions. Further, we guided him through the process of securing a visa



appointment and provided structured interview preparation, focusing on clear communication of travel purpose, duration, and ties to his home country. With proper legal guidance and preparation, the client was able to confidently present his case during the subsequent interview. This time, his application was successfully approved.

Key Insight: Even strong profiles can face refusals if intent is not communicated clearly. Strategic preparation and accurate presentation play a decisive role in B1/B2 visa approvals.