



**M.A. RAMOS & ASSOCIATES, PC**  
**TEXAS IMMIGRATION ATTORNEYS**

## **L Visas**

Hello my name is Tony Ramos. I am an Immigration Attorney and I would like to discuss the most common non-immigrant business visas that we handle and the respective requirements for these visas.

A second category of Visas we deal with regularly are the L visas. These visas are available to facilitate the transfer of company personnel.

These visas are divided into two categories: the **L-1A visa for Intra-company transferees reserved for Executive and Managers** and the **L-1B visa for Intra-company transferees reserved for those with specialized knowledge**.

These two visas are similar in requirements, with the primary difference being the applicant's position as an executive or manager, for L-1A and the special knowledge of the employee being transferred, for L-1B. The other L category visa that is available is for the dependents of L-1 visa holders, and this is the L-2 visa.

The L-1A visa is reserved for Executive and Managers of a company that are allowed to be transferred to an affiliated company. The companies have to be related in a certain manner in order to be considered qualifying organizations.

### **Some of the basic requirements are that:**

1. The U.S. employer must file the petition on behalf of the employee, seeking to transfer the employee from the foreign affiliate.
2. The employee must have worked continuously for at least one year for the foreign company within the past three years, and have worked in either an executive, managerial or specialized knowledge capacity.

3. The petition must clearly show that there is a qualifying relationship between the U.S. company and the foreign, including demonstrating that the foreign entity is the parent, branch, affiliate, or subsidiary of the U.S. petitioning company.
4. Both the U.S. and the foreign companies must be actively operating.

**Some of the benefits of being an L Visa holder include:**

1. You can work legally in the U.S. for a U.S. company, for maximum amount of seven years in L-1A status, or five years in L-1B status, so long as you maintain L-1 status qualifications. You can travel in and out of the U.S. freely, and;
2. Your spouse and dependents (children under the age 21) may enter the United States, and if so desired, your spouse may work in the United States.

**If a person is entering the U.S. to open up a new office, then the petitioning company must prove the following:**

1. Secure sufficient physical premises;
2. The beneficiary must meet the one-year continuous employment requirement; and
3. The intended U.S. operation within one year “will support an executive or managerial position.” This includes demonstrating the financial ability of the foreign and U.S. entity to commence business and to compensate the beneficiary.

Some of the requirements and benefits of being an L-1B Visa holder are similar to that of the L-1A Visa holders. To qualify for the L-1B Visa, the employee must possess **specialized knowledge** of the company’s products, service, research, equipment, techniques, management or other interests or an advanced level of knowledge of processes and procedures of the company.

These visa holders are allowed a total of five (5) year period of stay.

With these types of business visas, there is the requirement for providing supporting documentation, usually including a business plan and translations of documents in a foreign language.

Our office has ancillary services to help you create a Business Plan or to translate your documents. We can also help with establishing a business entity with the respective states. We can help you with these and a host of other services.

Please call our office today for a Free Initial Consultation, at 1-956-725-5166 or toll free if you live outside the United States at 1-888-878-4727 (1-888-US-VISAS), or you can visit our website at:

<http://www.RamosImmigrationLaw.com>.

I'm Tony Ramos...thank you for listening.