

# LEGAL UPDATE

June 25, 2010 By: Colleen L. Caden

## U.S. CONSULATES IN CHINA OPEN ON SATURDAYS

The U.S. State Department announced that U.S. consulates will be open in Beijing, Chengdu, Guangzhou, Shanghai and Shenyang on Saturdays to accommodate the thousands of Chinese citizens applying for visas to visit the United States. This unprecedented response to demand for visa appointments has been dubbed the “Super Saturday Visa Program.”

Trade, commerce, people-to-people exchanges, and tourism between China and the United States have grown dramatically over the past couple of years. According to the U.S. State Department, in 2009, U.S. consulates in China issued more than 487,000 visas to Chinese travelers. Sixty-six percent of these visas were for business and tourism. Growth in 2010 has been even more dramatic. In 2010, the volume of visa applications received by U.S. consulates in China is up 28% over the same period last year.

To make a nonimmigrant appointment from within China, applicants should call the China-wide Visa Information Call Center at 4008-872-333. Callers outside mainland China should call 86-21-3881-4611. Appointments are available on a first come, first serve basis and applicants may make their appointment at any China post, regardless of the geographic district in which they live.

Please contact Colleen L. Caden, Esq. with any questions regarding scheduling visa appointments.

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## 驻华美国大使馆领事处将开放周六签证面谈时间

为了满足前所未有的，数以千计的中国公民申请签证预约的需求，日前美国国务院宣布美国大使馆领事处将在北京，成都，广州，上海，和沈阳等地开放星期六签证面谈时间。此举已被称为“超级星期六签证方案。”

中美贸易，商业，人民之间的交流及旅游业在过去两年有了大幅度的增长。据美国国务院统计，在 2009 年美国驻华领事馆签发给中国旅客的签证超过 487,000 个。其中 66% 的签证是商业和旅游类签证。签证申请数量在 2010 年有了更加显著的增加。2010 年由驻华美领事馆收到签证申请的数量超过了去年同期的 28%。

在中国境内申请非移民签证预约，申请人须联系国内签证信息中心的电话。号码是 4008-872-333。中国大陆地区以外的申请者须拨打电话 86-21-3881-4611。签证预约本着先来先服务的原则。签证申请人可以不受其居住地地域限制，在任何驻华美国使领馆预约签证面谈时间。

有关在中国 或世界各地签证预约面谈问题，请联系凯琳律师。

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*The foregoing is intended to summarize the current decision of the U.S. State Department to open its consulates in China on Saturdays, and does not constitute legal advice. We are eager to address your specific questions and invite you to contact us with suggestions as to future topics.*

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## IMMIGRATION LAW

Pryor Cashman's Immigration Law Practice promotes and prides itself on an entrepreneurial approach to practicing law with a diverse client base. The Practice provides a full range of immigration solutions and services to corporate and individual clients, including artists and entertainers, in a broad spectrum of industries.

Our talented and dedicated legal staff is sensitive to the far ranging implications one's immigration status has on one's career, dependents and ability to work and travel internationally. For these reasons, the Immigration Practice functions in the same spirit as the firm's other practice areas – rendering innovative and custom-tailored approaches to each client's immigration and business needs.

### ADVISORY SERVICES

The Immigration Practice provides a full range of immigration services to corporate clients including:

- Strategizing and preparing temporary work and visitor visas for corporate employees and dependent family members
- Strategizing and preparing U.S. permanent residence applications for corporate employees and dependent family members
- Strategizing and preparing naturalization applications
- Providing strategic advice on short and long term assignments in the U.S.
- Providing legal guidance on dependent family members' visa status including work authorization, student status and maintenance of status
- Providing advisory services to develop corporate immigration policies and programs
- Advising corporate clients on the impact of corporate reorganizations and mergers and acquisitions
- Providing training services to corporate in-house human resources professionals and legal staff
- Strategizing immigration solutions for individual clients



**COLLEEN L. CADEN**

Partner

Direct Tel: 212-326-0147  
ccaden@pryorcashman.com

## CHINA PRACTICE

Pryor Cashman is a full-service firm uniquely equipped to provide legal advice and offer practical solutions to China-based companies seeking to conduct business in the U.S or to access the U.S. capital markets. In order to serve the legal needs of our China-based clients, our China Practice brings together the expertise and capabilities of various practice groups, such as Corporate, Litigation, Real Estate, Tax and Banking, and includes attorneys versed in Chinese culture and language.

A key area of our China Practice is the representation of publicly-traded China-based companies with regard to their reporting obligations to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), corporate governance and financing transactions, and the representation of privately-held China-based companies that are in earlier stages of becoming a public company, whether by initial public offering (IPO), reverse merger, or acquisition by a "special purpose acquisition corporation" (SPAC).

In our representation of our China-based clients, we strive to contribute significant value by providing high-quality, personalized and cost-effective legal services. In transactional matters, we add further value by making available our key relationships with non-legal advisors that focus on meeting the needs of China-based companies, including accounting firms, investor relations firms, bankers and placement agents.



**ERIC M. HELLIGE**

Partner

Direct Tel: 212-326-0846  
ehellige@pryorcashman.com



**SELIG D. SACKS**

Partner

Direct Tel: 212-326-0879  
ssacks@pryorcashman.com