

disposed of at the scheduled meeting, may be carried over to the agenda of the following meeting.

By order of the Commission:

Issued: February 22, 2006.

**Marilyn R. Abbott,**

*Secretary to the Commission.*

[FR Doc. 06-1814 Filed 2-22-06; 3:47 pm]

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## INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[USITC SE-06-013]

### Sunshine Act Meeting

**AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING:** United States International Trade Commission.

**TIME AND DATE:** March 6, 2006 at 2 p.m.

**PLACE:** Room 101, 500 E Street SW., Washington, DC 20436., Telephone: (202) 205-2000.

**STATUS:** Open to the public.

#### MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

1. Agenda for future meetings: none.
2. Minutes.
3. Ratification List.
4. Inv. Nos. 701-TA-269 and 270 and 731-TA-311-314, 317, and 379 (Second Review)(Brass Sheet and Strip from Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, and Japan)—briefing and vote. (The Commission is currently scheduled to transmit its determination and Commissioners' opinions to the Secretary of Commerce on or before March 21, 2006.)

5. Outstanding action jackets: none. In accordance with Commission policy, subject matter listed above, not disposed of at the scheduled meeting, may be carried over to the agenda of the following meeting.

By order of the Commission:

Issued: February 22, 2006.

**Marilyn R. Abbott,**

*Secretary to the Commission.*

[FR Doc. 06-1815 Filed 2-22-06; 3:47 pm]

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## DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

### Civil Rights Division; Office of Special Counsel for Immigration Related Unfair Employment Practices, Immigration Related Employment Discrimination Public Education Grants

**AGENCY:** Office of Special Counsel for Immigration Related Unfair Employment Practices, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of funds and solicitation for grant applications.

**SUMMARY:** The Office of Special Counsel for Immigration Related Unfair Employment Practices (OSC) announces the availability of funds for grants to conduct public education programs about the rights afforded potential victims of employment discrimination and the responsibilities of employers under the anti-discrimination provision of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), 8 U.S.C. 1324b. It is anticipated that a number of grants will be competitively awarded to applicants who can demonstrate a capacity to design and successfully implement public education campaigns to address immigration related unfair employment discrimination. Grants may range in size from \$35,000 to \$100,000. Applicants must demonstrate the ability to educate workers, employers and/or the general public about the anti-discrimination provision of the INA. OSC welcomes proposals from diverse public service groups, organizations or associations providing information services to employers and/or potential victims of discrimination, and faith-based organizations and nonprofit groups providing services and assistance to potential victims of discrimination.

**DATES:** *Application Due Date:* April 7, 2006.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Katherine A. Baldwin, Deputy Special Counsel, Office of Special Counsel for Immigration Related Unfair Employment Practices, 950 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, DC 20530. Tel. (202) 616-5594, or (202) 616-5525 (TDD for the hearing impaired).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Office of Special Counsel for Immigration Related Unfair Employment Practices of the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice announces the availability of funds to conduct cost effective public education programs concerning the anti-discrimination provision of the INA. Funds will be awarded to selected applicants who propose cost-effective ways of educating employers, workers covered by this statute, community service providers, and/or the general public.

*Background:* The Immigration and Nationality Act protects work authorized individuals from employment discrimination based on their citizenship status and/or national origin. Federal law also makes knowingly hiring unauthorized workers unlawful, and requires employers to verify the identity and employment eligibility of all new employees. Employers who violate this law are subject to sanctions, including fines and

possible criminal prosecution. Employers of four or more employees are prohibited from discriminating on the basis of citizenship status or national origin with respect to hiring, firing, recruitment or referral for a fee. They are also prohibited from committing "document abuse" on the basis of national origin or citizenship status in the employment eligibility verification process. U.S. citizens and certain classes of work authorized individuals are protected from citizenship status discrimination. Protected non-citizens include:

- Legal Permanent Residents;
- Refugees;
- Asylees; and
- Temporary Residents.

Citizens and all work authorized individuals are protected from discrimination on the basis of national origin. However, under the INA the prohibition against national origin discrimination applies only to employers with four to fourteen employees. National origin discrimination complaints against employers with fifteen or more employees fall under the jurisdiction of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission pursuant to Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. 2000e, *et seq.* In addition, under the document abuse provision of the law, employers cannot request more or different documents than are required for completion of the Employment Eligibility Verification (I-9) Form, prefer or require one form of documentation over another, or refuse documents that appear reasonably genuine on their face, if made for the purpose or with the intent of discriminating against an individual on the basis of national origin or citizenship status. OSC is responsible for receiving and investigating discrimination charges and, when appropriate, filing complaints with specially designated administrative law judges. OSC also initiates independent investigations of possible immigration-related job discrimination. While OSC has established a record of vigorous enforcement, studies have shown that there is an extensive lack of knowledge on the part of protected individuals and employers about the anti-discrimination provision of the INA. Enforcement cannot be effective if potential victims of discrimination are not aware of their rights. Moreover, discrimination can never be eradicated so long as employers are not aware of their responsibilities.

*Purpose:* OSC seeks to educate both workers and employers about their rights and responsibilities under the