

NEW GROUP PROMOTES GLOBAL MOBILITY

Anyone who has lived and worked outside their country knows that there are hurdles and administrative burdens to be overcome that simply don't occur when working at home.

The free flow of goods and services around the globe has increased but much remains to be done to smooth the way for the "free movement of people" so that the individuals necessary to sustain increased globalization can work internationally more easily.

For example, why do Australians have to give up their Australian nationality if they decide to acquire another?

And why, if we contribute, as the law says we must, to national social security systems in the countries where we work and pay taxes, can we not necessarily enjoy the full benefits of these systems?

In early 1999, the Australian Citizenship Council put out an Issues Paper addressing Australia's current law on dual citizenship.

In Belgium, another Australian, John Russell, and I organized a submission to the ACC to which 34 local Australians signed their names, advocating that the current law on dual citizenship be amended.

The process of organizing this submission confirmed our existing view that there was a need to form an organization which could lobby for change on a range of mobility issues in a collective fashion and under one banner.

In January 2000, following a public meeting, The Southern Cross Group was formed to promote mobility in the global community.

Although the Australian Citizenship Council recommended earlier this year that the Citizenship Act should be amended to allow the retention of Australian nationality, we are a long way from seeing this recommendation become law.

In the area of bilateral social security agreements, Australia does not presently have an agreement with the United States but negotiations are underway.

It has become clear in the few months since our launch that the Group has a role to play for Australians and other expats in North America and elsewhere despite the fact that the impetus for its establishment was in Europe.

Our wider "membership" of individuals on our e-mail bulletin list now numbers over 400 with people worldwide.


There are currently no membership fees and efforts have been made to communicate electronically wherever possible.

We hope that The Southern Cross Group can be a voice to speak to decision makers on behalf of individuals who have common concerns in order to achieve change which benefits us collectively in the long run. — Anne MacGregor.

(Anne can be contacted in Washington at anne_macgregor@hotmail.com, or tel 202 5088057 (work) or 202 4830567 (home). The Southern Cross Group's website is www.southern-cross-group.org. To be added to the Group's free e-mail bulletin list please contact info@southern-cross-group.org, or write to,

The Southern Cross Group
Avenue de Tervuren 12, Box 8
1040 Brussels, Belgium
Tel: 011 32 2 74 4220, Fax: 501 523 3253

■ IMMIGRATION LAW ■



GLOBAL BUSINESS REQUIRES GLOBAL KNOWLEDGE

- Temporary Work Visas
- Consular Processing
- Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)

- Intracompany Transfers
- Professionals & Investors
- Family Related Petitions

- Labor Certifications
- Employer Sanctions
- Entertainers & Sports Professionals

H

**HIRSON WEXLER
PERL & STARK**
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

AV Rated

New York
20 Exchange Place, Suite 2700
New York, NY 10005
phone 212-509-4921 • fax 212-509-4923
email hwps-ny@hwps.com

<http://www.hwps.com> • also in Newport Beach, Los Angeles & San Diego, CA • Phoenix, AZ • Las Vegas, NV • Maywood, NJ • Toronto, Canada

CHASE

UNIQUE MORTGAGES FOR
UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS

If your situation is unique, a Chase Mortgage Specialist can help find creative, flexible financing at the best possible rates. We can provide smart money management solutions that can lower your monthly expenses and make your money work harder for you. For expert advice and personalized service, just call Adam Sherman.

Adam Sherman
349 5th Avenue, 7th Floor
New York, NY 10016
(212) 696-3183
Discounts for "AAA" Members.

CHASE. The right relationship is everything.™

All loans are subject to credit and property approval. Program terms and conditions are subject to change without notice. Not all products are available in all states or for all loan amounts. Other restrictions and limitations apply. In New York, loans offered through The Chase Manhattan Bank. Loans offered through Chase Manhattan Mortgage Company ("CMMC") and the Chase Manhattan Bank, in Connecticut, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey, CMMC is a Licensed Mortgage Banker - New Jersey Department of Banking, CMMC Corporate headquarters: 343 Thornall Street, Edison, New Jersey, 08837; (732) 205-0600. ©1999 The Chase Manhattan Corporation. All Rights Reserved. 0399

