

## **Immigration Law Terminology**

In the universe of immigration law, there are two kinds of people:

### **U.S. Citizen**

- \*by birth in United States
- \*by acquisition
- \*by derivation

**Alien** (anyone who is not a U.S. citizen or national)

- \*Immigrants
- \*Non-Immigrants

### **Who is an immigrant?**

An immigrant is someone who, whether a lawful permanent resident (LPR) or undocumented, intends to reside permanently in the United States.

An LPR is someone who:

- Has intent to reside permanently in United States
- Is authorized to work
- Is authorized to travel abroad and return
- Can eventually naturalize

### **Who is a non-immigrant?**

A non-immigrant is a foreign national who has a foreign residence which s/he has no intention of abandoning and who is coming *temporarily* to the United States for a specific purpose. When the non-immigrant's authorized period of stay in the United States has expired or when s/he has completed the purpose for his/her visit, then s/he is expected to leave the United States. Non-immigrant visas are often referred to as the *alphabet* visas because they start out with a letter. For example, B visas are for tourists; J visas are for exchange visitors; F visas are for students; H visas are for temporary workers; R visas are for religious workers, and U visas are for victims of crimes.

### **Who is undocumented or without status?**

- Persons who entered the United States without papers or "without inspection"
- Persons who entered United States with status but now status has expired