SAMPLE NIW PEER REVIEW LETTER

Peer review letters are required from experts in the alien’s field in a petition for permanent residence National Interest Waiver (NIW) category. It is crucial to obtain expert opinions from objective, established people in the field. The letters should be as detailed as possible and come from individuals representing as varied a group as possible (e.g., academic institutions in the U.S. and/or abroad, government institutions in the U.S. and/or abroad, the business community in the U.S. and/or abroad, professional associations in the U.S. and/or abroad, etc.).

**Do not** send the letter directly to USCIS. The letter must be submitted by the international to International Services for inclusion with all other application materials for mailing to USCIS.

The letter should be addressed to:

U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services
Texas Service Center
4141 North St. Augustine Road
Dallas, TX 75227

This sample is designed to serve as a loose outline. It is very important that each letter not sound the same; using this letter repeatedly and simply inserting new information at certain places in the letter, will raise a red flag at CIS. The letters will not be viewed as credible and USCIS will likely issue an RFE (Request for Further Evidence) seeking additional and/or modified letters.

The letter must be on official letterhead/stationary that clearly identifies the institutional affiliation of the author.

1. **Opening Paragraph**

“I am writing this letter in support of Montclair State University’s application for U.S. Lawful Permanent Resident status on behalf of [INSERT NAME] in the National Interest Waiver category. I believe his/her research will be of great importance for the ____________ industry and therefore ____________ in the U.S. and all over the world.”

2. **Paragraph #1**

Information regarding the writer, including current position, background, and accomplishments. (NOTE: It is helpful if the writer provides a copy of his/her CV along with the recommendation letter.)

3. **Paragraph #2**

An explanation of how the writer knows the applicant.

4. **Paragraph #3**

Documentation regarding how the applicant qualifies for Lawful Permanent Resident status based on National Interest Waiver category. The letter must help establish that the applicant meets the following criteria:
a. His/her work is a benefit that is national in scope and an emphasis rests with the overall value and potential of the particular beneficiary’s individual contribution to the United States.

b. Evidence of meritorious achievements:
   - Evidence of a one-time achievement (i.e., a major, internationally-recognized award),
   - OR evidence of at least three of the following:
     - Receipt of lesser nationally or internationally recognized prizes or awards for excellence in the field of endeavor,
     - Membership in associations in the field which require outstanding achievements as judged by recognized national or international experts,
     - Published material about the foreign national in professional or major trade publications or other major media,
     - Participation on a panel or individually as a judge of the work of others in the field or an allied field,
     - Original scientific, scholarly, artistic, athletic, or business-related contributions of significance in the field,
     - Authorship of scholarly articles in the field, in professional or major trade publications or other major media,
     - Display of the foreign nationals' work at artistic exhibitions or showcases,
     - Evidence that the foreign national has performed in a leading or critical role for organizations or establishments that have a distinguished reputation,
     - Evidence that the foreign national has commanded a high salary or other high remuneration for services, or
     - Evidence of commercial successes in the performing arts, as shown by box office receipts or record, cassette, compact disk, or video sales.

5. Closing Paragraph