

February 29, 2008

Dear UB Student / Scholar,

Since spring break is approaching, we would like to alert you to increased activity by U.S. Border Patrol officers in and around public transportation hubs, such as bus and train stations. Although Amtrak train stations and Greyhound bus stations in Rochester, Syracuse and other cities are not international border crossings, U.S. Border Patrol has legal jurisdiction in such locations and may stop you to request proof of legal immigration status. These officers will usually wear green uniforms, but are sometimes not in uniform.

Please be reminded that you are required by law to carry your original I-94 card at all times. We also urge you to carry the following documents any time you are near an airport, train or intercity bus station and any time you travel outside Buffalo:

- Original passport

AND

- I-20 (for F-1 students) OR DS-2019 (for J-1 students and scholars) OR I-797 approval notice (for H-1B employees).

If you cannot prove your immigration status, U.S. Border Patrol officers can detain you until they determine that you are in the U.S. legally. We do not want your trip to be delayed or, even worse, for you to end up in a detention facility so please carry your immigration documents when you travel!

Did you miss our workshop, "Your Immigration Status: Rights, Responsibilities & Consequences"? If so, please stop by our office to request a copy of the handout. Sophie Feal, Esq., Supervising Immigration Attorney, Volunteer Lawyers' Project, Inc., presented on your rights at the border, in your home, on the street and during traffic stops. Her legal advice will be useful if you are stopped by U.S. Border Patrol officers so we urge you to read her handout.

Sincerely,
Ellen Dussourd

