

## Get Home *Faster*

If you are a world traveler, you may be able to use the fast lane to re-enter the U.S.

By **Susan R. Blackman, Esq.**

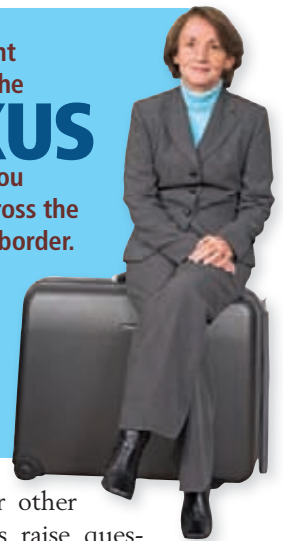
If you frequently travel to other countries, you have probably encountered long lines for customs and immigration inspection when you returned to the U.S. Now you may be able to re-enter on the fast track. Travelers who have a clean record with no criminal, immigration or customs violations can apply for a pass that would expedite the customs and immigration process at 20 major U.S. airports. The program involves a self-serve kiosk that is usually reserved for airline crews and diplomats.

### The Global Entry Trusted Traveler Program

The U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) recently expanded the Global Entry Trusted Traveler program. The program is currently open to U.S. citizens, Lawful Permanent Residents of the United States (i.e., green card holders), and certain qualified citizens of Canada, Mexico and The Netherlands. Other countries may be added in the future. Applicants undergo a rigorous background check with fingerprinting and must be interviewed by a CBP Officer at a participating airport. Those who qualify will get expedited clearance through a self-operated kiosk that saves time upon arrival at the U.S. airport. Tests of the pilot program were shown to reduce wait times by 70 percent.



You may want to enroll in the **NEXUS** program if you frequently cross the U.S.-Canada border.



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The U.S. airports currently offering this program include: Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Dallas/Fort Worth, Detroit, Fort Lauderdale, Honolulu, Houston, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Miami, New York (JFK), Newark, Orlando, Orlando-Sanford, Philadelphia, San Francisco, San Juan-Puerto Rico, Seattle and Washington, DC (Dulles). Other airports may be added as the program expands.

**Travelers with a clean record and no criminal, immigration or customs violations can apply to expedite the customs and immigration process...**

### Apply Online

Applicants can apply online through the Global Online Enrollment System (GOES) at <https://goes-app.cbp.dhs.gov>. Applicants must be at least 14 years old and pay a nonrefundable application fee of \$100.

Approved applicants may receive Global Entry Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) cards—valid for five years—or stickers on their passports. Possession of the card or sticker does not guarantee a re-entry free of delays. If a Trusted Traveler's name shows up on a

watch list, or other circumstances raise questions about the person's compliance with customs, immigration or legal requirements, then the traveler would be required to undergo inspection by a CBP officer. Barring such developments, use of this program could dramatically expedite passage through customs and immigration each time the Trusted Traveler returns to the U.S. The program may also grant expedited entry benefits in other participating countries.

More information, including the location of the kiosks at participating airports, is available at the Global Entry website at [www.globalentry.gov](http://www.globalentry.gov).

### The NEXUS Program

If you frequently cross the U.S.-Canada border, you may want to enroll in the NEXUS program, which offers expedited processing at border posts. NEXUS members also may be eligible to use the Global Entry kiosks at airports. Information is available at [www.nexus.gov](http://www.nexus.gov). Similarly, Mexican members of the SENTRI program may obtain information about using the Global Entry kiosks at the GOES website listed above. *GP*



### About Susan R. Blackman

*Susan R. Blackman, Esq., is a partner in the law firm of Willcox & Savage, P.C. in Virginia Beach, VA. She practices Business Immigration Law and Employment Law and has been selected by Best Lawyers in America for both Employment Law and Immigration Law. She works with U.S. employers and foreign employees to help them comply with employment and immigration laws. Richmond Magazine has recognized her as one of the Top 25 Women Attorneys in Virginia. She can be reached at [sblackman@wilsav.com](mailto:sblackman@wilsav.com).*

