

Trump's Vineyard Looks to Hire Foreign Workers for U.S. Jobs

By [Nika Knight](#)

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In another demonstration of President-elect Donald Trump's [blatant conflicts of interest](#), a Trump family vineyard filed a request this month for six temporary foreign worker visas—visas which Trump's administration will soon have the power to approve.

The U.S. Labor Department posted the [request](#) (pdf) that was submitted earlier this month online on Wednesday.

"This is a powerful example of why Donald Trump needs to make a definitive break, not just with his operational interests but his ownership interests, by appointing an independent trustee to liquidate all that," Norm Eisen, former chief White House ethics lawyer for President Obama, [told](#) the *Washington Post*.

It's "a classic conflict of interest," Eisen said.

And the conflict of interest isn't the only noteworthy aspect of the situation: Like many U.S. businesses in the Trump empire, the vineyard often employs temporary foreign workers under H2 visas. Specifically, [H2-A visas](#) apply to temporary agricultural workers, many of whom travel to the U.S. to work from South America—including Mexico.

Trump ran an [aggressively anti-immigrant](#) campaign, leading chants of "build a wall!"—referring to a promise to [construct a wall](#) on the U.S.-Mexico border—at his massive campaign rallies. Since [launching his campaign](#) by calling Mexicans "rapists," the president-elect has continued to [characterize immigrants as criminals](#) and says he [plans to enact mass deportations](#) once he takes office.

Yet "Trump's various businesses have been granted approval to [hire at least 1,256 foreign guest workers](#) over the last 15 years, according to a *CNN* analysis of Labor Department filings," [reports](#) *CNN Money*. Of those requests, the *Post* [notes](#) that 269 were filed after Trump started his presidential run.

Trump serves as president of [Trump Winery](#) in Charlottesville, Virginia, and the vineyard is run by Trump's son, Eric, according to the *Post*.

Trump continues to refuse to divest himself of his businesses, as *Common Dreams* has [reported](#).

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