

AILA CHICAGO CHAPTER
USCIS DISTRICT DIRECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE
CHICAGO FIELD OFFICE
FEBRUARY 25, 2016 MEETING

SUPPLEMENTAL MINUTES

1. AILA Midwest Regional Conference

USCIS Chicago District Director Tom Cioppa, USCIS Chicago District General Counsel Deborah Gordon, and Dan Renaud (Associate Director, Field Operations Directorate) will all be speaking at the conference.

2. Decreased processing times for I-130 and I-485

A file review team was established around six months ago to review older I-130 and I-485s. The team has made significant progress in moving through these cases.

3. Inquiries to Tom Cioppa

The Director reports that he receives many inquiries from Congressionals, the Ombudsman, and from AILA members. For best results, members are asked to stagger the number of inquiries being made to the Director, rather than submitting numerous inquiries at the same time. Your patience is requested.

4. Complaints against officers

The Director indicated that they take such complaints very seriously and that complaints are reviewed. The officer is afforded the opportunity to respond to the complaint. There is an expectation that officers conduct themselves with professionalism and they are reminded that they are in a customer service, not a law enforcement role.

5. Use of electronic devices during interviews

The current policy for the Chicago District Office is that attorneys are permitted to take devices into interview, but are asked not to electronically record the interview. It is permitted to take written notes during interviews, however during the administration of the naturalization tests, attorneys should refrain from taking any notes.

6. Parole in Place

The office has received increasing numbers of these applications and, for this reason, processing times have also increased. A Quality Management Specialist has recently been hired and is tasked with reducing all processing times.

7. Inquiries on I-360 SIJ Petitions

Inquiries regarding pending I-360 SIJ petitions should be directed to Alejandra Dominguez or Stacy Summers.

8. N-400s scheduled for second interviews

A certain number of N-400 applications (73) were scheduled for a second interview due to an internal issue. Of those, sixty have been completed and have moved to the next stage in processing. This was an anomaly and should not be recurring.

9. Notice time for N-400 rescheduled interviews

The attorney and client should generally get two weeks' notice before the rescheduled interview.

10. FDNS investigations

FDNS officers do not generally notify attorneys of record, even with a G-28 on file, of investigations or meetings with clients because it is viewed as an administrative rather than criminal investigation. Clients are free to decline to participate in the administrative interview or to ask that the attorney be contacted. Clients should not be threatened by the FDNS officers and attorneys should report to Nick Melissius if this is occurring.

11. Clarification regarding question 6 “Medical Exams and Visa Bulletin”

The Chicago District Office endeavors to schedule interviews within a one year window of the projected date the applicant's final action PD will become current. They recommend that an updated medical exam still be brought to the interview so that the case is ready to approve once the final action PD becomes current.