

**AILA / CHICAGO ASYLUM OFFICE LIAISON MEETING
JANUARY 24, 2019 AT 10:00 A.M.**

TVPRA

1. How many TVPRA asylum applicants have you interviewed since October 1, 2018?

See attached statistics.

2. How many TVPRA asylum cases have you adjudicated since October 1, 2018?

See attached statistics.

3. How many TVPRA asylum cases are currently pending a decision?

See attached statistics.

4. Are there any procedural changes in light of the new Executive Orders or due to new Headquarter directives with regard to TVPRA cases that you can share with the chapter?

No, there are no procedural changes due to either new Executive Orders or HQ directives to report to the chapter.

5. Has new guidance been issued related to the scheduling of TVPRA asylum applicants? Since TVPRA asylum applicants are not priorities within the LIFO scheduling paradigm, is the Asylum Office currently scheduling TVPRA asylum applicants for interviews?

The Asylum Office is completing most LIFO cases and is working to issue decisions in cases that have already been interviewed. The Asylum Office is also working to address cases in the backlog as time permits. The Asylum Office works on both long-pending and recently filed cases in the backlog.

REASONABLE/CREDIBLE FEAR

6. How many credible fear interviews have you conducted since October 1, 2018?

See attached statistics.

7. How many reasonable fear interviews have you conducted since October 1, 2018?

See attached statistics.

8. How many individuals are currently waiting to receive a credible/reasonable fear interview?

See attached statistics.

9. How many individuals are currently waiting to receive a credible/reasonable fear decision?

See attached statistics.

10. Are there any procedural changes in light of the new Executive Orders or due to new Headquarter directives?

No, there are no procedural changes due to either new Executive Orders or HQ directives to report to the chapter.

11. Has the Asylum Office resumed normal scheduling of non-detained credible/reasonable fear interviews? Chapter members continue to report being told by Asylum Office staff that non-detained credible fear interviews are not being scheduled.

The Asylum Office has resumed scheduling of non-detained credible/reasonable fear interviews as resources permit. Chapter members should contact Joi Robinson with requests for non-detained credible/reasonable fear interviews.

ASYLUM

12. How many asylum cases have you adjudicated since October 1, 2018?

See attached statistics.

13. How many grants/denials/referrals?

See attached statistics.

14. Any new trends in asylum cases? Has the asylum office seen an influx of cases from any particular region of the world?

The Asylum Office has not identified new trends or seen an influx of cases from any particular region of the world.

15. Are there any procedural changes in light of the new Executive Orders or due to new Headquarter directives?

No, there are no procedural changes due to either new Executive Orders or HQ directives to report to the chapter.

16. What is the procedure chapter members should follow when requesting that an asylum application be reopened after it has been administratively closed by the Asylum Office?

A motion to reopen should be filed only for cases in which a final decision has been issued by the Asylum Office. Administrative closure of an asylum application is not a

final decision. If a chapter member wishes to request an administratively closed case be reopened, s/he should write a letter to the Asylum Office explaining the reasons the case should be reopened.

17. When the Asylum Office refers a case to court after an interview on the merits, what does the Asylum Office send to the court? Does the Asylum Office send the asylum application and all supporting documentation filed in that case?

When referring a case to the immigration court, the Asylum Office sends the I-589 along with all supporting documents filed in the case to the court as part of the referral. Chapter members should notify the Asylum Office if not all the documents filed in a particular case are part of the court's file.

- a. If a case is referred to court before an interview takes place for lack of jurisdiction or another reason, what documentation is sent to the court?

If a case is not properly before the Asylum Office, only the Notice to Appear will be sent to the court.

NACARA

18. How many NACARA applications are currently pending with the Chicago Asylum Office?

See attached statistics.

19. How many grants/denials?

See attached statistics.

MISCELLANEOUS

20. Can you provide an update on any new staff and supervisory positions?

The Asylum Office currently has 62 asylum officers working on cases, and 10 additional officers have been selected. There has been no change in supervisory personnel, but the Asylum Office will be hiring more supervisors once the new officers are in place.

The next AILA-AO Liaison Meeting will be held on June 27, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. The meeting is open, but all questions must be submitted in advance to Amanda Crews Slezak at acrews@heartlandalliance.org by June 21, 2019 at 3:00 p.m.