

AILA CHICAGO CHAPTER
USCIS DISTRICT DIRECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE
CHICAGO FIELD OFFICE
MAY 24, 2016 MEETING

SUPPLEMENTAL MINUTES

1. Personnel

USCIS Chicago District Director Tom Cioppa reported the Chicago office currently has 210 authorized positions. They have recently created the position of District Deputy Director. This is a senior level (GS-15) position that will be responsible for overseeing operations and will report directly to Tom Cioppa. Others that report directly to him include Chief of Staff, Carissa Coen, and FDNS Supervisor, Nick Melissius.

In addition, it was reported that Alejandra Dominguez is no longer with the Chicago District Office.

2. File Review Team progress

The file review team which was established to review older I-130 and I-485s has made significant progress in moving through these cases. They report they are currently working on cases pending for eighteen months or longer.

3. Saturday N-400 Interviews / Cycle Times

N-400 receipts are up 18% and cycle times have also increased. In response, beginning July 9th, the Chicago office will begin conducting N-400 interviews on Saturdays. This will initially be only for the months of July and August, but will be reevaluated to determine whether to continue into September. Interviews will take place between 8am and 1:45pm on these Saturdays.

It is anticipated that oath ceremonies will increase in frequency. Currently non-name change cases are sworn in on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Name change cases are sworn in on Wednesdays.

4. Current Processing Times

- a. I-485: 7 months
- b. N-400: 5.6 months

c. N-600: 3.5 months.

The office does not track times for post I-485 interview to approval. Members are encouraged to keep track of these to see if there are a few officers who have the bulk of the cases. Also, note that a long-pending case list will be distributed to the Chapter in the near future.

5. Electronic Submission of Form N-400

Beginning in August, members should begin to see the transition to the electronic filing system for N-400s in the interviews. Officer will have Ipads affixed to their desks and clients will sign the forms with a stylus.

6. Inquiries to Tom Cioppa

The Director reports that he receives many inquiries from Congressionals, the Ombudsman, AILA members and even the White House. For best results, members are asked to make use of only one inquiry method at a time and to wait a minimum of 90 days before filing an inquiry on a case. Members are also asked to limit the number of inquiries being made to the Director to special cases. Your patience is requested.

7. Follow up to Question 10 regarding Post Order Procedure

It was reported that the office is in discussions with the office of Assistant Chief Counsel to better streamline how cases are sent from the Immigration Court to the District Office.

8. Follow up to Question 1 regarding Deputy Secretary Mayorkas' visit

USCIS Officer Nancy Krumpolz and CBP Manager Joe Kolb were honored by Deputy Secretary Mayorkas.

9. Follow up to Question 3 regarding documents for N-600 oath ceremony

Liaison requested a copy of the template/form used for the sworn statement for N-600 applicants who do not present their green card.

10. Follow up to Question 6 regarding how to obtain a duplicate of a name change

The District Office is in the process of formulating a process to request name change documents from 1991 -1999. These may also be available through FOIA but we do not know which method is quicker.