

**AILA / CHICAGO ASYLUM OFFICE LIAISON MEETING
JUNE 16, 2016**

TVPRA

1. How many TVPRA asylum applicants have you interviewed since October 1, 2015?

See attached statistics.

2. How many TVPRA asylum cases have you adjudicated since October 1, 2015?

See attached statistics.

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

See attached statistics.

4. AILA members have reported experiencing delays in receiving rescheduled interviews. Is there a backlog on rescheduling UIC children for their asylum interviews?

The AO is not experiencing a backlog in rescheduling of UIC interviews. If a UIC case has taken more than six months to be scheduled for an interview, please contact the AO.

5. For UIC's who initially requested their interview be rescheduled in the first instance but are now ready to move forward, what is the best way for the applicant to inform the AO?

Chapter members should submit a request in writing via fax.

6. In cases where the UIC notifies the AO they are ready to proceed with their interview after they have requested the first initial rescheduling request, will the AO re-start their asylum clock?

The AO will restart the asylum clock when the interview occurs.

REASONABLE/CREDIBLE FEAR

1. How many credible fear interviews have you conducted since October 1, 2015?

See attached statistics.

2. How many reasonable fear interviews have you conducted since October 1, 2015?

See attached statistics.

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

See attached statistics.

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

See attached statistics.

ASYLUM

1. How many asylum cases have you adjudicated since October 1, 2015?

See attached statistics.

2. How many grants/denials/referrals?

See attached statistics.

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

See attached statistics.

4. Chapter members have reported that after requesting a decision be issued after waiting at least 60 days after an interview that was expedited for humanitarian reasons, they are receiving letters that state an expedited decision cannot be made. What would trigger a case be re-designated as not requiring expedited processing after the AO acknowledges the case requires expedited interviewing? Are there any internal procedures in which these types of cases would receive an expedited decision?

When the AO identifies a case as meriting expedited interviewing, it will continue to be considered meriting expedited processing for purposes of issuing a decision. There are certain circumstances in which a decision may be delayed for a case meriting expedited processing, i.e. records check issues and required headquarters review. The AO is working expeditiously to improve their follow-up of cases identified as meriting expedited processing.

NACARA

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

See attached statistics.

2. How many grants/denials?

See attached statistics.

MISCELLANEOUS

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

The AO is fully staffed at 35 officers. One (1) is currently away on active duty. Four (4) were at training and three (3) officers started as of the day of the meeting.

2. The USCIS Field Offices have changed their procedures and now allow legal representatives to use their computers during interviews for the purposes of notetaking. Has Headquarters made any recent similar changes to their computer policies so as to allow legal representatives to use their computers during Asylum Office interviews?

No, to the contrary Headquarters has stated that this rule is still in full effect. AO supervisory staff will bring this issue to their attention in an effort to encourage HQ to allow for legal representatives solely for the purpose of note taking.

The next AILA Asylum Office Liaison Meeting will be held on Thursday August 25, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. at the Chicago Asylum Office. The meeting is open to all Chicago Chapter AILA members, but all questions must be submitted to Diana Tafur at dtafur@heartlandalliance.org by Friday, August 19, 2016.



OUTREACH MEETING

June 16, 2016

Chicago Asylum Office Data from 10/1/15 to 5/31/16

Asylum Cases Completed *thru* 5/31/16: 1,197
 Adjudicated: 973
 Un-adjudicated: 224

 Grants: 379
 Revocations: 0
 Denials: 15

 Referrals (Interviewed): 450

 Filing Deadline (One-Year) Referrals: 129

Total Referrals: 548

Total Pending Adjudication as of 5/31/16: 10,153

NACARA Case Status *thru* 5/31/16: 9
 Grants: 6
 Referrals: 3
 Dismissals/Withdrawals: 0
 Total Pending Adjudication: 15

Credible Fear Cases Interviewed *thru* 5/31/16: 929
 Total Credible Fear Decisions: 1090

 Reasonable Fear Receipts *thru* 5/31/16: 319
 Reasonable Fear Interviews: 241
 Total Reasonable Fear Withdrawals/Closings: 88
 Total Reasonable Fear Completions: 327
 Total RF Pending: 14

 TVPRA Interviewed: 589
 Total TVPRA Completions *as of* 5/31/16: 360
 Total TVPRA Pending *as of* 5/31/16: 1,195

Asylum case trends? No notable trends

Influx of cases from any particular region?
Africa, China, the Middle East, and South and Central America

Asylum-Division-Quarterly-Stakeholder Statistics:
<https://www.uscis.gov/outreach/asylum-division-quarterly-stakeholder-meeting-3>