

**AILA / CHICAGO ASYLUM OFFICE LIAISON MEETING  
AUGUST 25, 2016**

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**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 interviews. Is there a backlog on scheduling UIC applicants for their initial asylum interviews? What is the average wait time for UIC initial interviews?

*The AO has reduced the number of interviews in a concerted effort to complete cases which have been interviewed and are pending a decision. For this reason both UIC and affirmative cases are moving at their current pace. The AO is not able to provide an estimate of the time lapse between a UIC's initial filing and interview. UIC cases continue to be priority cases.*

5. How does the AO confirm a UIC has been designated as unaccompanied?

*The AO will consider a child applicant as unaccompanied throughout the adjudication of the case if at the time of filing they present the ICE Instruction Sheet for an Unaccompanied Alien Child and ORR Verification of Release and/or Placement Authorization.*

6. Is there a process or internal procedure by which a designated UIC may lose their unaccompanied designation? If so, what is that process and or procedure?

*The AO does not have the authority to re-designate a UIC. The designation is conducted by Customs and Border Patrol.*

**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 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. AILA members have reported that the AO has been provided alien files although the alien never applied for asylum. How may AILA members help USCIS offices coordinate to ensure the file is with the adjudicating office?

*There are various reasons why a file may be with the AO, even if the individual is not an asylum applicant.*

5. AILA members have reported difficulties with cases being received and receipted by the Nebraska Service Center (NSC), including UIC cases. For example, there have been a couple of cases in which the applicants attempted to file the Form I-589 with the NSC but the NSC has rejected the filing. The applicants then filed locally with the AO but have had trouble having the case properly receipted. Are there any internal procedures for filing a case with the local AO? What would be the best way for practitioners and applicants to ensure the AO receives the application so that any one-year-deadline ("1YD") concerns are avoided?

*The NSC is experiencing trouble with asylum filings. There is currently a delay in receipting asylum applications amongst other issues. NSC is including the FedEx envelope in the Alien file and receipt dates are relatively close to the actual filed date. The AO is aware of the significance of relying on the receipt date as the filing date and may consider other evidence, i.e. the FedEx receipt confirmation date as the filing date for 1YD purposes. The Asylum Office will be generous in the reviewing the evidence that the Applicant filed on time.*

*If you are experiencing trouble with filing an asylum application, please bring your case to the attention of the AO who will help to resolve the issue.*

## **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 with 37 officers. The AO is also currently hiring.*

2. Other:

*The AO is working to return to providing regular pick up notices at the beginning of the fiscal year, including for UIC cases.*

**The next AILA Asylum Office Liaison Meeting will be held on Thursday October 20, 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](mailto:dtafur@heartlandalliance.org) by Friday, October 14, 2016.**



## OUTREACH MEETING

August 25, 2016

Chicago Asylum Office Data from 10/1/15 to 7/31/16

Asylum Cases Completed *thru* 7/31/16: 1,507  
    Adjudicated: 1,201  
    Un-adjudicated: 306

    Grants: 502  
    Revocations: 0  
    Denials: 19

Referrals (Interviewed): 561

Filing Deadline (One-Year) Referrals: 119

**Total Referrals: 680**

**Total Pending Adjudication as of 7/31/16: 12,176**

NACARA Case Status *thru* 7/31/16: 15  
    Grants: 14  
    Referrals: 1  
    Dismissals/Withdrawals: 0  
    Total Pending Adjudication: 12

Credible Fear Cases Interviewed *thru* 7/31/16: 1,304  
    Total Credible Fear Decisions: 1,539

Reasonable Fear Receipts *thru* 7/31/16: 419  
    Reasonable Fear Interviews: 323  
Total Reasonable Fear Withdrawals/Closings: 111  
    **Total Reasonable Fear Completions: 440**  
    **Total RF Pending: 12**

TVPRA Interviewed: 631  
Total TVPRA Completions *as of* 7/31/16: 472  
Total TVPRA Pending *as of* 7/31/16: 1,334

*Asylum case trends?* No notable trends

*Influx of cases from any particular region?*

Africa, China, the Middle East, and South and Central America