

**AILA / CHICAGO ASYLUM OFFICE LIAISON MEETING  
MARCH 23, 2017**

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**TVPRA**

1. How many TVPRA asylum applicants have you interviewed since October 1, 2016?

*Please see attached statistics.*

2. How many TVPRA asylum cases have you adjudicated since October 1, 2016?

*Please see attached statistics.*

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

*Please see attached statistics.*

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

*There have been no procedural changes to date in light of the new Executive Orders. The AO will inform the chapter of procedural changes resulting from the new Executive Orders.*

**REASONABLE/CREDIBLE FEAR**

5. How many credible fear interviews have you conducted since October 1, 2016?

*Please see attached statistics.*

6. How many reasonable fear interviews have you conducted since October 1, 2016?

*Please see attached statistics.*

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

*Please see attached statistics.*

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

*Please see attached statistics.*

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

*USCIS released updated versions of the ADOTC Lesson Plans, Credible Fear of Persecution and Torture Determinations and Reasonable Fear of Persecution and Torture Determinations, on February 13, 2017 consistent with Executive Order 13767, Border Security and Immigration Improvements. Officers have received training on these changes. The Asylum Office does not consider these changes to require a higher burden of proof or to impose a requirement for documentation.*

## **ASYLUM**

10. How many asylum cases have you adjudicated since October 1, 2016?

*Please see attached statistics.*

11. How many grants/denials/referrals?

*Please see attached statistics.*

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

*Please see attached statistics.*

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

*There have been no procedural changes to date in light of the new Executive Orders. The AO will inform the chapter of procedural changes resulting from the new Executive Orders.*

14. AILA remains concerned regarding the Chicago's Asylum Office procedures relating to cases involving asylum applicants who have been issued Notices to Appear but which have never been filed with the immigration court. Our primary concerns involve the Chicago Asylum Office declining jurisdiction due to the existence of an expedited removal order that was rescinded or vacated and/or never effectuated due to the superseding issuance of a Notice to Appear; asylum applicants and attorneys of record not being notified of the Chicago Asylum Office's *sua sponte* decision to administratively close the case due to lack of jurisdiction; the stopping of the EAD clock in violation of the ABT settlement. Would the Asylum Office consider changing its current procedures administratively closing these cases up until the Notice to Appear is filed with the immigration court and notifying asylum applicants and their attorneys of records?

*Headquarters has explained they will consider the immigration court to have jurisdiction over asylum applications once an expedited removal order has been issued, even if it was*

*later vacated or superseded with a Notice to Appear and no charging document has been filed with the immigration court.*

## **NACARA**

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

*Please see attached statistics.*

16. How many grants/denials?

*Please see attached statistics.*

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

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

*The Chicago AO is currently staffed with 50 officers. The AO has received a new supervisor who will be starting shortly making the total number of supervisors eight (8). The AO is still experiencing a fair amount of turnover and there is likely to be some fluctuation in officer numbers. The AO continues to hire officers and encourages chapter members to apply.*