



U. S. Department of Justice

Executive Office for Immigration Review

Office of the Chief Immigration Judge

5107 Leesburg Pike, Suite 2500

Falls Church, Virginia 22041

June 15, 2005

Mr. Robert Evans
American Bar Association
740 Fifteenth St, NW
Washington, DC 20005-1022

Dear Mr. Evans:

This responds to your letter of May 19, 2005, to the Chief Immigration Judge regarding EOIR's case completion goals.

This will correct certain misperceptions about case completion goals. Most notably, judges were informed earlier that all juvenile cases have been exempted from the case completion goals. Even if goals were applicable, a case that was detained changes to a nondetained goal upon the respondent's release. Also, a "completion" has various permutations, and most goals allow a degree of deviation. Adjournment codes assigned by the judge can exempt a case from a case completion goal. Judges are responsible for knowing the goals and their application.

The letter suggests delaying detained cases, citing research needs and limited assets, while acknowledging that few are eligible for relief. Earlier, I expressed concern to the Office of Refugee Resettlement that, where feasible, juveniles be housed at a location with adequate *pro bono* attorneys, near a transportation hub, and at a court with a lighter caseload. I cited the closing of the Dallas facility, where an organization and *pro bono* attorneys were willing to take cases. The Harlingen Court has been supportive of juveniles. While juveniles are a small fraction of the court's caseload, the court has devoted over fifty percent of a judge's docket to juveniles, when needed. If your organization finds *pro bono* attorneys to assist juveniles, the court can assist in training, as Dallas did. Finding a means to "complete" detained juvenile cases is crucial, as it limits detention and speeds family reunification. Fostering delay and, thereby, increased detention and family separation would not seem a beneficial aspiration.

I trust this responds to your inquiry.

Sincerely,

Larry R. Dean
Assistant Chief Immigration Judge