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Michael Battle

Director

Executive Office for United States Attorneys

United States Department of Justice

950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Room 2616

Washington, DC 20530-0001

RE: Certifications for Immigrant Victims of Crime

Dear Mr. Battle,

I am writing to follow up on my September 22, 2005 letter inquiring whether your office has developed any procedures or issued any guidance to United States Attorneys regarding requests from non-citizen victims of crime for certifications that they have been, are, or are likely to be helpful to the investigation or prosecution of criminal activity. As you are aware, the U visa offers an important incentive for non-citizen survivors of crime to collaborate with law enforcement, and the certification serves as documentation of this collaboration.

The American Bar Association operates pro bono immigration projects including Volunteer Advocates for Immigrant Justice in Seattle, WA, and the South Texas Pro Bono Asylum Representation Project in Harlingen, TX. These projects have encountered individuals who may be eligible for U visa interim relief, and we anticipate that they will work with your office in the future on these cases. Therefore, we are once again requesting any information you are able to provide on the criteria that United States Attorneys use in deciding whether or not to sign certifications, and any relevant procedures they have in place for responding to these requests.

We look forward to receiving your response and appreciate your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,


Robert D. Evans