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Marcy Forman
Director of Investigations
Office of Investigations
Immigration & Customs Enforcement
US Department of Homeland Security
800 North Capitol St., N.W.
Washington, DC 20573

RE: Certifications for Immigrant Victims of Crime

Dear Ms. Forman:

I am writing to follow up on my September 22, 2005 letter inquiring about your office's procedures for handling requests from non-citizen victims of crime for certifications from ICE that they have been, are, or are likely to be helpful to the investigation or prosecution of criminal activity. 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 such 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 your office uses in deciding whether or not to sign certifications, and any relevant procedures your office has 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