

[News](#) > [ABA News](#) > [ABA News Archives](#) > [2018](#) > [09](#)

## Statement of ABA President Bob Carlson Re: Immigration lawyers and judges

WASHINGTON, Sept. 11, 2018 — The American Bar Association applauds the work of lawyers who help assure fairness and due process in our nation's immigration courts. During a visit last month to the border in Texas, I was very impressed by their hard work in difficult circumstances. Our Constitution guarantees certain rights to all people in the United States, including men, women and children who come here to escape lawlessness and violence in their home countries.

The ABA strongly supports the independence of immigration judges and immigration courts. These courts should not be subordinate to any executive branch agency, including the Justice Department. Instead, we support the creation of truly independent immigration courts and judges under Article I of the U.S. Constitution. Such an arrangement would remove any perception that politics can play a role in dispensing justice with matters of immigration.

Our American democracy rests upon the rule of law – and the rule of law rests upon the work of impartial, independent judges, as well as knowledgeable, hard-working lawyers, including immigration attorneys who pursue justice, both for the government and for immigrants who seek asylum.

**With more than 400,000 members, the American Bar Association is one of the largest voluntary professional membership organizations in the world. As the national voice of the legal profession, the ABA works to improve the administration of justice, promotes programs that assist lawyers and judges in their work, accredits law schools, provides continuing legal education, and works to build public understanding around the world of the importance of the rule of law. View our [privacy statement](#) online. Follow the latest ABA news at [www.americanbar.org/news](http://www.americanbar.org/news) and on Twitter [@ABANews](#).**

This entry was posted on Tue Sep 11 16:49:23 CDT 2018 and filed under [Robert M. Carlson](#), [News Releases](#) and [Commission on Immigration](#).

[Back to top](#)

### Search ABA News



### Stay Connected for ABA News



### Media

**Contact Media Relations at [abanews@americanbar.org](mailto:abanews@americanbar.org) or call (202) 662-1090**

- [View a full list of media contacts](#)

### 2018 ANNUAL MEETING



- [See all stories, news releases and video](#)
- [Review House of Delegates policy actions](#)

### About the ABA

- [Reporter Alerts](#)
- [Media Credentials](#)
- [Officer Bios](#)

### ABA News Sections

- [Top Stories](#)
- [Multimedia](#)
- [News Releases](#)

### Key Issues

ABA President Bob Carlson:

- [Biography](#)
- [Stories, Releases and Statements](#)
- [Twitter: @ABAPresident](#)

Presidential initiatives

- [ABA Blueprint](#)
- [Future of Legal Education initiative](#)
- [Disaster Legal Services](#)
- [Celebrate Pro Bono](#)
- [2018 Annual Meeting](#)
- [House of Delegates Resolutions](#)

**AILA Doc. No. 18091200. (Posted 9/12/18)**

- [Criminal Justice Section](#)
- [Immigration](#)
- [Law Practice Division](#)
- [Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar](#)
- [Section of Litigation](#)
- [Young Lawyers Division](#)