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May 7, 2024

Associate Director Ted H. Kim
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services
Refugee, Asylum and International Operations Directorate
Washington, DC 20529

RE: AILA Asylum & Refugee National Committee Suggested Data & Statistics for Publication

Dear Associate Director Kim:

We write on behalf of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) and AILA's Asylum & Refugee National Committee. We would like to express our sincere gratitude for your June 13, 2023 letter regarding the data that you provided and the guidance to the data that has been made available through the Immigration and Citizenship Data page.

While we acknowledge the data that has been published, there are several critical pieces of information that we are still seeking. These missing data points are crucial for government transparency, and for our research and analysis, as well as for informing public discourse on these important matters. Here is a summary of the missing data and information that we would greatly appreciate your assistance in obtaining the following:

1. Number of cases on the expedite lists for interview and percentage of expedite requests granted per asylum office that uses an expedite list. Please also provide a list of which asylum offices use an expedite list and which do not.
2. Number of Asylum cases pending, including a breakdown of how many cases are pending by year of filing over the last five years.
3. Number of asylum interviews conducted by circuit ride for each of the asylum offices at each circuit ride location over the last five years.
4. Number of cases at each asylum office interviewed, pending decision including: Total; Less than 6 months; More than 1 year; More than 2 years; More than 3 years; and 4 years or more.
5. Average amount of time per office between interview date and decision for the last five years.
6. Number of asylum cases filed beyond the one-year filing deadline and percentage of cases granted an exception to the one-year filing deadline, broken down by asylum office.
7. Number of Notices of Intent to Deny (NOIDs).
8. Number of nunc pro tunc requests, nunc pro tunc interviews scheduled, number of pending nunc pro tunc cases, number of nunc pro tunc grants.

We understand that gathering and publishing data can be a complex process, and we appreciate your ongoing commitment to transparency. Your assistance in providing the missing information would greatly contribute to AILA's efforts to better understand and address the challenges and opportunities within the field of asylum and refugee operations.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we look forward to your continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vic & Neil Kathryn Renee Weber". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Victoria Neilson, Esq. & Kathryn R. Weber, Esq.
AILA Asylum & Refugee Committee

Amy Grenier, Esq.
Policy & Practice Counsel
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