July 6, 2016

U.S. Department of Justice
Executive Office for Immigration Review
Office of General Counsel – FOIA Service Center
5017 Leesburg Pike, Suite 1903
Falls Church, Virginia 22041

VIA Email: EOIR.FOIARequests@usdoj.gov

Re: FOIA request – Processing of EOIR Cases

Dear Freedom of Information Act Officer:

I am a researcher at the UCLA School of Law and am writing to request certain documents, pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act. I understand that since this data is for academic research there is no cost for the request.

This FOIA request asks for documents pertaining to the Executive Office of Immigration Review’s (EOIR’s) processing of cases. For purposes of this request, EOIR refers to all entities of the agency, including the Office of the Director, Office of the General Counsel, Office of the Chief Immigration Judge, the Board of Immigration Appeals, Office of Planning, Analysis and Technology, and any other divisions and sections therein. EOIR also includes all jurisdictions of the immigration courts, known as “base cities” and any local documents, procedures, or protocols produced for those base city courts and corresponding hearing locations contained within each base city.

First, for the period of June 18, 2013, to the present, I am requesting that you provide all documents related to protocols, procedures, directions, and training for adjudication and data entry, storage, and interpreting related to immigration cases processed by EOIR, including but not limited all documents related to EOIR’s Case Access System (CASE). You already provided documents relating to a similar request on June 18, 2013, in FOIA No. 2013-15030.
This request simply asks for any documents that may have been created since the time you responded to that request.

Second, for the period of January 1995 to the present, I am requesting all standards, criteria, policies, guidelines, procedures, memoranda, and other documents relating to the processing of cases of Detained Adults with Children (DAWC),¹ including but not limited to documents relating to:

1. Hearings for cases of detained adults with children (DAWC) held at some point in their case a family detention center, including, but not limited to:
   a. Berks Family Residential Facility in Leesport, Pennsylvania
   b. T. Don Hutto Residential Center in Taylor, Texas
   c. Artesia Family Residential Center in Artesia, New Mexico
   d. Karnes County Residential Center in Karnes, Texas
   e. South Texas Family Residential Center in Dilley, Texas

2. Legal Orientation Programs, including the expansion of such programs, at family detention centers, including but not limited to those listed in Item #1 above.

3. EOIR’s use of the “lead-rider” codes in the CASE database, as well as EIOR’s use of “case identifier” codes.

4. How immigration cases involving detained adults with children (DAWC) are assigned to immigration judges.

5. Adjudication of cases involving detained adults with children (DAWC) subject to expedited removal, including those applying for asylum.

6. The use of an “expedited docket” to adjudicate cases involving detained adults with children (DAWC).

¹ For purposes of this request, Detained Adults with Children (DAWC) refers to the adjudication of cases by EOIR as a family unit that were placed in detention at some point during the pendency of their case with EOIR. This includes cases placed on the so-called “expedited docket” and coded as AWC/D by DHS on the Notice to Appear. It also includes any cases coded as AWC/ADT to refer to adults with children released on alternatives to detention. Finally, it also includes all cases of families that passed through detention at some point prior to the institution of the “expedited docket.” For purposes of this request, DAWC’s may be released and have their case resolved while they are not detained. They also may have the entire case adjudicated while they are in detention.
7. All memoranda issued to immigration judges regarding docketing practices, release practices, or other case adjudication issues for cases involving detained adults with children (DAWC), both in detention as well as out of detention (released).

8. Any memoranda, policies, procedures, or guidance concerning your reliance on the “AWC/D” code used since July 18, 2014 to refer to adults with children that began their case as detained.

9. Any case completion goals, practices, or procedures for cases of detained adults with children (DAWC), including but not limited to cases on the “expedited docket.”

10. Any audits, evaluations, pilot programs, assessments, statistical report, or other type of review addressing the cases of detained adults with children (DAWC), including but not limited to their case processing, detention, issuance of removal orders, in absentia removal orders, access to counsel, and granting of continuances.

I request that the information I seek be provided in print or electronic format.

Thank you in advance for your assistance with this request.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at 310-206-7145 if you have any questions regarding this request.

Sincerely,

\[Signature\]

Ingrid V. Eagly
Professor of Law