

APPROVED MINUTES FROM 10/28/2009
ASYLUM OFFICE LIAISON MEETING

Attendees via Telephone:

Present at meeting for USCIS: Elton McIntosh, Arlington Supervisory Asylum Officer
Present at meeting for AILA: Missale Ayele, Attorney, Asylum Liaison

Questions:

1. Any updates regarding the asylum office?
No updates.
2. Is there anything you would like us to send out to our members?
Please note the new address listed below is a mailing address only not the physical address:

USCIS – Arlington Asylum Office
Mail Stop 2500
1525 Wilson Blvd. #300
Arlington, VA 20598-2500

The physical address remains:
USCIS – Arlington Asylum Office
1525 Wilson Blvd. #300
Arlington, VA 22209
3. Next Asylum Liaison Meeting?
Wed. November 25, 2009 @ 11:00 a.m. via telephone
4. How often are the asylum officers in Atlanta and when will they be here next?
Once a month but irregular week of the month because we have to wait for case build-up before we send the officer to Atlanta.
5. EAD issues when an affirmative application is filed with the asylum office; and the case gets referred to the Court there seems to be a problem with the asylum processing clocks when they are transferred. I have discussed this issue for numerous clients with the Atlanta Court Administrator and on some cases the issue has been that the “case was not expedited.” Court administrator had told me to contact Asylum Office.

Lead Respondent XXXXXX, Derivative Spouse XXXXXX and Derivative Child XXXXX. I-589 filed July 13, 2006; referred to the Court on January 26, 2009. Respondents have renewed their work authorization under their pending asylum application since 2007 with no problem, until most recent renewal upon

checking the Immigration Court system they learned that their asylum processing clocks were inaccurate. Lead Respondent's (XXXXXXX) asylum processing clock has been stopped at 137 days. Respondents (XXXXXXX) and (XXXXXXX) asylum processing clocks are running but to date only 115 days have elapsed. Can you help us in making the necessary correction?

The clock normally stops when the applicant requests for rescheduling of interview. In this case we will review the file and make a correction if there was an error on the clock. Please inform members to contact me, Elton McIntosh, if they encounter similar problems with the clock.

6. Issue where asylum office reflects that NACARA was approved, client never got green card, and has been unable to get green card since approval in 2003. Discussed with USCIS and they claim that they need a receipt notice and approval not showing up. The applicant's name is XXXXXXXX, I-881 acknowledgement receipt has no receipt notice; but biometrics appointment notice has I-881 receipt notice as XXXXXXXX. I-881 NACARA approved June 17, 2003.

We will order the file and check to see if there was an error that occurred or if something is missing in the file or administration process.

7. An asylum applicant (XXXXXXX) was issued a Referral Notice and an NTA while his F-1 student visa was still valid. His master hearing is scheduled for November 10, 2009. Attached please find our form G-28 and a letter from the school confirming full-time status. Is there anything your office can do to have the proceeding terminated and the case remanded to your office?

Checked the system and verified that the applicant is still in F-1 status; will contact the chief counsel's office to ask them to file a motion to terminate proceedings in court.

8. What are the current processing times for asylum applications filed with the Atlanta Office?

Uncertain of the processing times but we are required to process the applications within 80 days, so should normally be within that time.