U.S. Department of Justice

Executive Office for Immigration Review

Board of Immigration Appeals

Chairman

5107 Leesburg Pike, Suite 2400
Falls Church, Virginia 22041

January 9, 2003

Letters to the Editor
Los Angeles Times

Dear Editor:

Your recent article and editorial on the Board of Immigration Appeals (Board) unfairly characterizes our current efforts to reduce our pending caseload. You should be aware that numerous Federal administrative tribunals decide cases with a single adjudicator without offending due process. Every Board case receives careful deliberation, including screening by the Board's attorney staff, before the case is decided. Moreover, the new regulation still allows for adjudication by three-member panels if the case presents complicated issues or the Immigration Judge's decision was incorrect.

You noted that some Board Members are signing 50 cases a day. As previously explained, the date that appears on a decision is not the date the Board Member signed it. Furthermore, many matters at the Board are routine and contain no controversy. Those cases can be reviewed in a very short period of time, and are concentrated in one or two panels. The two Board Members you mention are assigned to such a panel. It is therefore not surprising that they will have signed more cases than other Board Members.

Alleging that the Board is superficially reviewing large numbers of cases and trampling on due process is simply wrong. The Board Members and attorney staff at the Board are dedicated professionals who take their jobs very seriously and realize that the Board is often the last recourse before deportation. The Board is resolving a large number of cases fairly under tight deadlines, and your implication to the contrary is both inaccurate and unfair.

Sincerely,

Lori Scialabba

Lori Scialabba
Chairman