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U.S. Department of Homeland Security
San Francisco Field Office
630 Sansome St.
San Francisco, CA 94111



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

May 13, 2008

Ms. Julia Mass and Ms. Monica Ramirez
ACLU of Northern California
39 Drumm Street
San Francisco, CA 94111

Dear Ms. Mass and Ms. Ramirez:

Thank you for your letter of May 7, 2008. We appreciate the opportunity to respond to the concerns you express in your letter.

While we disagree with the accuracy of your specific allegations concerning U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) personnel, when an attorney appears with a properly completed Notice of Appearance, Form G-28, and requests access to his or her client, ICE honors the attorney's appearance and facilitates communication between the lawyer and client as soon as practicable and consistent with applicable law and regulation. If an alien is represented and requests that his/her attorney be present for an interview related to an alternative to detention, although not required by law, Headquarters' Office of Detention and Removal Operations has informed its field offices that they may allow attorneys to be present in the exercise of discretion. Finally, when it comes to notifying aliens of legal representation options, ICE follows the regulation at 8 C.F.R. section 287.3(b). This regulation specifies that ICE is to provide an alien with a list of free legal services provided by organizations and attorneys qualified under pertinent regulations in the district where a removal proceeding will take place.

Please contact me if you have further concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Alcantar".

Nancy Alcantar
Field Office Director