

Immigration Judge: Cassidy, William A. Complaint Date: 04/27/10 Complaint Number: 168

Current ACIJ Final Action Final Action Date Base City Status

Smith, Gary W. CLOSED Complaint dismissed due to the complainant's 06/03/10 (b) (6)

failure to state a claim

A-Number(s)	Complaint Nature(s)	Complaint Source(s)
(b) (6)	In-court conduct	Third party (b) (6)

Complaint Narrative: Attorney alleges IJ deprived of of 1st Amendment right to observe hearings & ordered security to have removed from the

building. In general the attorney feels the IJ does not record significant portions of the hearings, goes off/on record and does not

summarize off record.

Complaint History					
04/19/10	Alleged conduct occurred				
04/28/10	ACIJ/CP responds to source acknowledging complaint.				
05/05/10	Database entry created				
06/03/10	Complaint dismissed due to the complainant's failure to state a claim				
06/04/10	ACIJ responds to source				
06/09/10	ACIJ/CP sets ups a call with the source to discuss complaint				
06/10/10	Source met with ACIJ C/P via telephone meeting				

Moutinho, Deborah (EOIR)

From: Smith, Gary (EOIR)

Sent: Wednesday, May 12, 2010 12:14 PM

To: Cassidy, William A. (EOIR)

Subject: RE: judge cassidy

Thanks, Judge, I appreciate your getting back with me on this. That will assist in preparing a comprehensive response.

From: Cassidy, William A. (EOIR)

Sent: Wednesday, May 12, 2010 10:57 AM

To: Smith, Gary (EOIR)
Subject: RE: judge cassidy

Dear Judge Smith:

The exchange with (b) (6) went as follows to the best of my recollection:

Miss, I going to have to ask you to leave.

On WHAT, Authority?

If you like me to provide with the copy of the regulations, I will.

I know the regulations.

Then, I am going to ask you to leave. I need to speak to the Respondent. After I speak with him, if I deem it appropriate I will allow you to return.

May, I speak to the Respondents?

No.

I then departed the court to obtain the file for the next individual hearing.

When I returned (b) (6) was gone. (b) (6) my clerk indicated that she came to the front of the courtroom and

spoke with the Respondents present via televideo at (b) (6) and then left indicating that she would be in the waiting room.

While she did speak to some of the detainees from the morning master hearing, she did not speak with the Respondent who was the subject of the individual hearing.

He had not been brought up, as of yet. When the Respondent appeared I explained on the record his right to have a closed hearing and he made that request. You may wish to review the DAR.

I did not have further contact with (b) (6) and and at no time did I ask anyone to remove her. I only learned about her departure at the conclusion of my hearing.

I had asked (b) (6) to prepare an account of the incident and send it to you soon after this event. If she hadn't responded you may wish to speak with her privately.

Bill

I will respond to the Bond issue shortly. If there is anything on this matter that I need to address please let me know. Please note I did not identify that the matter before me was an asylum hearing. However, it was and involved very personal issues and the Respondent did request the hearing be

closed.

From: Smith, Gary (EOIR)

Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2010 5:02 PM

To: Cassidy, William A. (EOIR); (b) (6) (EOIR)

Subject: FW: judge cassidy

Judge(b) (6) We're going to need to come up with a very objective response to (b) (6) complaint. Please review this and let's begin working on it. Thanks. (I recognize that she has been problematic there and will likely continue to be.)

From: Keller, Mary Beth (EOIR)

Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2010 4:33 PM

To: Smith, Gary (EOIR)
Subject: FW: judge cassidy

Gary,

Here is what I initially got. Then I spoke with her on May 03 on the phone. She reiterated most of what was in the (b)(6) and added a few other things. She claims problems with respondents getting into the (b)(6) facility following their release; and problems with respondents getting copies of the 213s in their own records from either DHS or the judge.

Non-Responsive

I think the substance of what she is asserting that we may want to get the judge to respond to are

(1) improperly closing hearings? (b) (5)

(b) (5)

(2) IJ ordering the guards to have her removed from the building? (5) (5)

(b) (5)

(3) Failure to record hearings. (5)

(D) (D)

(4) Stated policy of categorically denying bond unless there are ten years of income tax records in evidence. (b) (5)

(b) (5)

mtk

----Original Message----

From: (b) (6) [mailto:(b) (6) Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2010 12:43 AM

To: Keller, Mary Beth (EOIR)

Subject: RE: judge cassidy

Dear Ms. Keller,

Thanks for your follow up explanation. I was hoping to talk with you to have an understanding of the process I should be expecting, including a

timeline and the people who will be making decisions about this complaint.

(b) (6)

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> My email to you was intended as a courtesy to acknowledge receipt of
> your complaint. Your colleague is correct; I will consider the material
> you've provided, and talk with the people to whom you referred me first,
> and then I would be happy to talk with you via phone.
> MaryBeth Keller
>> Assistant Chief Immigration Judge
>> EOIR/OCIJ
>> 703/305-1247
>>
> ----Original Message----
                          [mailto: (b) (6)
> From: (b) (6)
> Sent: Wednesday, April 28, 2010 3:02 PM
> To: Keller, Mary Beth (EOIR)
> Subject: RE: judge cassidy
> Dear Ms. Keller,
> As I'm sure you understand, I have many reasons to distrust this
> process.
> Alas, your response this morning is now among them.
> A colleague has told me that you are happy to speak by phone to other
> people who have filed misconduct complaints. I would appreciate this
> same
> courtesy.
>
>>
>> This is to let you know that I have received this message, as well as
>> your voicemail. I will look into and get back to you and let you know
>> if I need more information or detail.
>> Thank you.
>>
>>
>> MaryBeth Keller
>> Assistant Chief Immigration Judge
>> EOIR/OCIJ
>> 703/305~1247
>>
>>
>>
>> ----Original Message----
>> From: (b) (6)
                           [mailto: (6)
>> Sent: Tuesday, April 27, 2010 10:36 AM
>> To: Keller, Mary Beth (EOIR)
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>> Subject: judge cassidy
>>
>> Dear Ms. Keller,
>>
>> I am writing at the suggestion of an AILA member to file a misconduct
>> complaint against IJ William Cassidy for unlawfully instigating guards
>> working for the Federal Protective Services to threaten and use force
>> against me. I believe that by enlisting guards to "get her out of the
>> building" Mr. Cassidy engaged in criminal conspiracy to commit
> assault.
>> He also deprived me of my First Amendment right to attend the
>> immigration
>> hearing and he appears to have violated the Immigration Practice
> Manual
>> rule stating that asylum hearings may be closed only at the request of
>> the
>> respondent.
>>
>> This occurred on Monday, April 19, 2010 at the immigration courts in
>>
>> The details are described in my
>> I would request that you rely on this information for the background
> and
>> specific facts concerning this incident:
>>
    You may also contact Lauren Alder Reid in EOIR; she can confirm that
>> gave her this narrative within about two hours of its occurrence. (I
>> want you to note the comments by other attorneys responding to this
>> post.)
>>
>> I hope it is okay if I call to discuss this in more detail.
> Meanwhile,
>> please feel free to call me at
>>
>> Sincerely,
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- (b) (6) allegations against Cassidy:
 - 1. IJ Cassidy closed a hearing without following proper procedures, thus depriving of her first amendment right to observe
 - a. date/time: ~3pm, 4/19/10
 - b. witnesses: interpreter, clerk
 - c. A#: unable to locate afternoon case on IJ's docket on 4/19
 - 2. IJ Cassidy ordered security to have removed from the building, an act which constitutes misdemeanor simple battery or conspiracy to commit assault
 - a. date/time: ~3pm, 4/19/10
 - b. witnesses: (b) (6) guards, (b) (6)
 - in general, IJ Cassidy does not record significant portions of hearings, fails to note
 which portions are on and off the record, and does not summarize off-the-record
 exchanges when going back on the record
 - 4. IJ Cassidy has a stated policy of categorically denying bond unless there are ten years of income tax records in evidence
 - a. date/time: AM, 4/19/10
 - b. witnesses: TA, private bar, interpreter, clerk
 - c. A#s: (b) (6)

DATE: 04/29/2010 TIME: 08:28 AM

'e' - Expedited Asylum Case

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Executive Office for Immigration Review
IJ Monthly Calendar Summary Report
JUDGE WILLIAM A. CASSIDY. (WAC) 04/2010

Moutinho, Deborah (EOIR)

From: Smith, Gary (EOIR)

Sent: Wednesday, June 02, 2010 3:24 PM

To: Keller, Mary Beth (EOIR)

Cc: Moutinho, Deborah (EOIR)

Subject: FW: (b) (6) - April 19, 2010

(b) (5)

I called (b) (6)

and she confirmed the account she provided (b) (6)

that the judge had excluded (b) (6)

had let them know that, not the judge. When (b) (6)

began creating a ruckus to draw attention and started ranting and raving. She said she then asked to leave the building.

(b) (6)

ranted some more but eventually left the building.

From: (b) (6) (EOIR)

Sent: Wednesday, June 02, 2010 3:11 PM

To: Smith, Gary (EOIR)

Subject: (b) (6) - April 19, 2010

Good Afternoon Judge Smith,

(b) (6) number is (b) (6) Below is the information she provided to me this morning. In addition, I am waiting on FPS to provide me with the incident report.

I spoke with (b) (6) Lead Security Officer/Contractor today June 2, 2010. (b) (6) informed me of what her recollection of the incidents that took place on the date in question. (b) (6) indicated that (b) (6) came in early that day and ask indicated that she wanted to go into the court hearings. They ask her to come see the court administrator (b) (6)

Later in the day when the incident began (b) (6 was not present at the onset. Upon her arrival it was Officer(b) (6) and Officer(b) (6) present with (b) who was ranting and raving, and they informed (1) in (b) (6) courtroom because there was an asylum hearing. that Judge(b) (6) did not want(b) (6) was told to leave the building and she started ranting and raving and wanted to know on whose authority is she being removed from the building. proceeded to guide (b) (6) by her elbow (she indicated this was by the tip of her fingers on elbow and not a grip hold) and informed her that she needs to exit the building and then she was ranting and raving that she was being assaulted and turned around to get all of the officers names (b) (6) Officer (b) (6) and Officer (b) (6) After she got the names continued to guide her out of the building.

She informed me that (b) (6) and and (b) (6) are are still not present, but there accounts should be in the official report that I have to obtain from DHS/Federal Protective Service.

Moutinho, Deborah (EOIR)

From: IJConduct, EOIR (EOIR)

Sent: Friday, June 04, 2010 9:51 AM

To: (b) (6

Attachments: Response ltr.pdf

Please see attached response to your complaint.



U. S. Department of Justice

Executive Office for Immigration Review

Office of the Chief Immigration Judge

5107 Leesburg Pike, Suite 2500 Falls Church, Virginia 22041

June 3, 2010



Your complaint of April 27, 2010, to Assistant Chief Immigration Judge MaryBeth Keller, concerning the (b) (6) Immigration Court and Immigration Judge William A. Cassidy was referred to me as the Assistant Chief Immigration Judge supervising the (b) (6) and (b) (6) Immigration Courts.

I inquired into the circumstances raised in your complaint. You principally raised four matters. You stated that Judge Cassidy unlawfully instigated guards working for the Federal Protective Service to threaten and use force against you and enlisted guards to "get you out of the building" on April 19, 2010, at the (b) (6) Immigration Court. My inquiry revealed that you were permitted to attend hearings that afternoon. Judge Cassidy asked you leave the courtroom because he needed to inquire of a pro se respondent whether the respondent wished to have the hearing closed to the public. Judge Cassidy told you that after speaking with the respondent in the case, if he deemed it appropriate, he would permit you to return. After talking with the respondent, the judge deemed it appropriate under 8 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1003.27, to exclude the public from that hearing. My review of the nature of that case reveals that was appropriate. Such action is authorized under the regulatory section cited.

The second matter you raised pertained to Judge Cassidy ordering a security officer to have you removed from the building. My inquiry does not reveal that to be substantiated, and there is no indication that the judge ordered your removal from the building.

(b) (6) then a legal assistant, did tell you that the hearing was closed.

The third matter you raised with Judge Keller was your belief that Judge Cassidy does not record hearings. Judge Cassidy regularly records all removal proceedings, as is his duty under 8 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1003.28. Some authorized procedures, such as prehearing conferences, are not required to be recorded.

The fourth matter you raised is whether Judge Cassidy has a policy of categorically denying bond redetermination unless there are ten years of income tax records. The decision of the immigration judge whether to redetermine bond and in what amount is governed by 8 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1003.19, based on the Immigration and Nationality Act, the Code of Federal Regulations, and appellate case law. Judge Cassidy is bound by those governing authorities and makes an individualized determination based on the facts in each case. If a respondent believes that the immigration judge has erred, he or she is free to appeal the bond redetermination decision to the Board of Immigration Appeals.

I appreciate your bringing your concerns to our attention, and we will do our best to ensure that all respondents appearing before our Courts, as well as others attending proceedings, are treated fairly and with courtesy and respect.

Sincerely,

Gary W. Smith

Assistant Chief Immigration Judge

Keller, Mary Beth (EOIR)

From:

(b) (6

Sent:

Tuesday, July 27, 2010 3:46 PM Keller, Mary Beth (EOIR)

To: Subject:

RE: [Fwd: Question about Document Discrepancy]

Sorry, one more question for purposes of clarification: were the notes to which you are referring below taken contemporaneous with our conversation on June 10, 2010?

(b) (6)

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> Hi (b) (6)
> My notes reflect that you asked if there was a "manual" for conducting
> investigations at OCIJ, to which I responded that there was not.
> is not. My notes also reflect that I referred you to our website which
> contains the summary guidelines you reference below. This is a general
> summary of our management process for handling complaints and not what
> I understood you to be asking for, though I nevertheless did refer you
> to it.
> mtk
>
>
> MaryBeth Keller
> Assistant Chief Immigration Judge
> OCIJ/EOIR
 703.305.1247
>
> ----Original Message----
> To: Keller, Mary Beth (EOIR)
> Subject: [Fwd: Question about Document Discrepancy]
> Dear MaryBeth Keller,
> I received an autoreply indicating you were returning July 1, 2010.
> As I have not received a reply I am resending. I have checked my
> notes and they are consistent with the question below.
> Based on the record at hand, either you knew of these written
> guidelines for IJ misconduct investigations and lied to me, or they
> were produced without your knowledge and not distributed to someone
> who would be charged with implementing these procedures, or the
> document was produced with or without your collaboration after we
> spoke and backdated.
> Please let me know if you have anything further to add.
> Thank you,
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----- Original Message > Subject: Question about Document Discrepancy ′ <<mark>(b) (6</mark> Thu, July 8, 2010 6:57 > Date: > To: > > MBK, > On two separate occasions, preceding and following the submission of > my complaint, I asked if there were written guidelines for how the > EOIR misconduct investigations were to be conducted. On two > occasions, one of which was in June (I don't have the date on hand but > it was following receipt of the report and is indicated in my > contemporaneously typed notes), you told me there were no written > guidelines specific to IJ misconduct investigations, only general > supervisory or management protocols (again, the precise wording is in > the notes I took, despite your admonitions otherwise). > However, the document here "Summary of OCIJ Procedure for Handling > Complaints Against Immigration Judges" indicates it was produced on > May 17, 2010. > http://www.justice.gov/eoir/sibpages/IJConduct/IJComplaintProcess.pdf > Were you unaware of this document or its preparation or earlier > versions when you twice told me that there were no written policies > for IJ misconduct investigations? > Thank you for your helping me understand this discrepancy.

Keller, Mary Beth (EOIR)

From:

(b) (6)

Sent:

Túesdáy, July 27, 2010 1:58 PM

To: Subject: Keller, Mary Beth (EOIR)
RE: [Fwd: Question about Document Discrepancy]

Dear MaryBeth Keller,

Can you please send me a copy of your notes? I have a right to these under the Privacy Act.

Thank you.

(b)(6)



Duplicate

Keller, Mary Beth (EOIR)

From:

(b) (6)

Sent:

Tuesday, July 27, 2010 3:36 PM

To: Subject: Keller, Mary Beth (EOIR) Notes on our conversation(s)

Dear MaryBeth Keller,

For purposes of verification and authentication it would be helpful to know whether the notes you took on June 10, 2010 were typed or hand-written. For these purposes an immediate response would be most useful.

Thank you.

(b) (6)



Moutinho, Deborah (EOIR)

From:

Keller, Mary Beth (EOIR)

Sent:

Wednesday, June 09, 2010 9:38 AM

To:

Smith, Gary (EOIR)

Cc:

Moutinho, Deborah (EOIR)

Subject:

FW: Smith memorandum regarding my complaint against William Cassidy

fyi

----Original Message----

From: Keller, Mary Beth (EOIR)

Sent: Wednesday, June 09, 2010 9:38 AM

Subject: RE: Smith memorandum regarding my complaint against William Cassidy

Good morning - I have seen a copy.

I am tied up most of the day today; but free all day tomorrow if you would like to talk further.

mtk

----Original Message----

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, June 08, 2010 6:38 PM

To: Keller, Mary Beth (EOIR)

Subject: Smith memorandum regarding my complaint against William Cassidy

Have you seen a copy of it? Any chance we can talk tomorrow? Thanks!

Oh, and just to clarify the new email address, I have accepted a job offer at



Phone call w/(b) (6) - June 10, 2010

She had a number of questions for me that she wanted to "get through"

- 1. Had I seen the Gary Smith letter? I told her yes.
- Who else had seen it? I told her that no one else was cc'd, so I didn't have an answer to that. I told her that we often provide complaints to the judge, as well as resolutions, but that Judge Smith was out of the office until next week.
- 3. Did I write the response? No.
- 4. To whom did Gary Smith speak? I told her I didn't have the details, but was aware that he had spoken to the judge and court staff, security personnel, and whomever he else he felt it necessary to speak in order to look into and address her concerns.
- 5. She asked about whether I thought he had adequately addressed her concerns regarding Oct 7, 2009, and referred to a "cover up" of his "pattern". At that point I told her that Judge Smith addressed (b) (6) complaints re the April 2010 incident and surrounding issues which she had subsequently talked on the phone with me about. She said she thought the Oct 2009 hearing was part of "the surrounding issue" and I told her that if there was a miscommunication regarding the nature of her current complaint, I would appreciate her putting that in writing in order to avoid further miscommunication.
- 6. Did I anticipate that Judge Smith would be in touch w/ her and did I recall telling her that he would call? I advised her that I did tell her Judge Smith would be in touch. I told her that depending on the issue raised, it is sometimes resolved without discussing further with the complainant.

I did ask her at that point if she was typing what I was saying, and if I would appear on her blog (!) – I advised her that I was not the official spokesperson for EOIR, but was instead simply trying to help her get her complaint resolved.

- 7. She asked whether there was a manual on how we conduct investigations and I told her no, there was nothing in writing other than our general internal management processes which we use to resolve all manner of problems brought to our attention on a daily basis.
- 8. She asked me if I thought that Judge Smith's letter was "fair," to which I responded that if she was not satisfied that I had accurately conveyed her concerns to Judge Smith, or, if she was not satisfied with Judge Smith's resolution, I would be happy to receive her articulation of those concerns in writing, again. She said that Judge Smith's factual account in his letter was "a lie" and that EOIR employees answering questions from their supervisors can't be expected to be candid. She said that Judge Cassidy had lied before, and would ultimately get caught. I told her that I didn't agree with that, and that her option if she isn't satisfied with EOIR, is OPR, which handles matters regarding professional misconduct of any Department attorney. She indicated that she had just discovered that and would likely be going there.

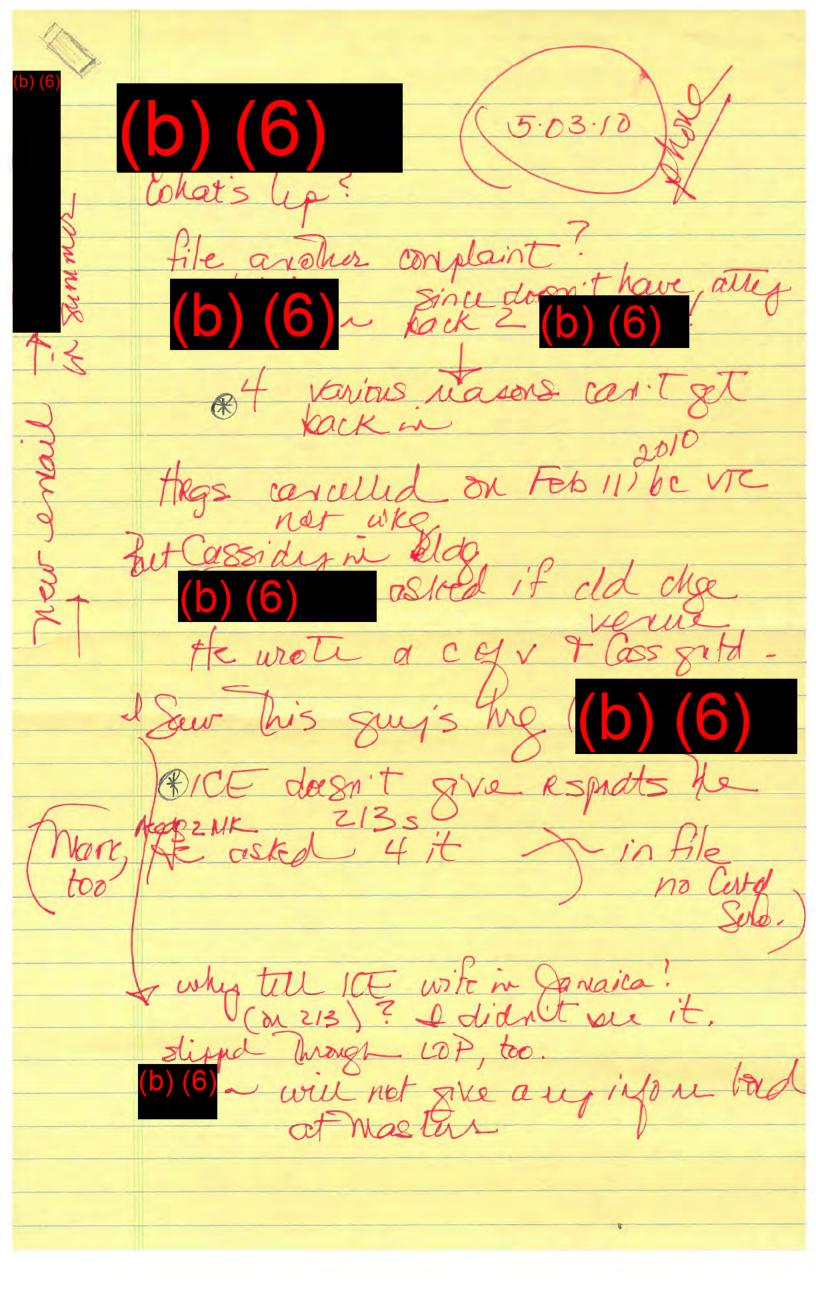
She indicated that she would follow up with some questions for me.

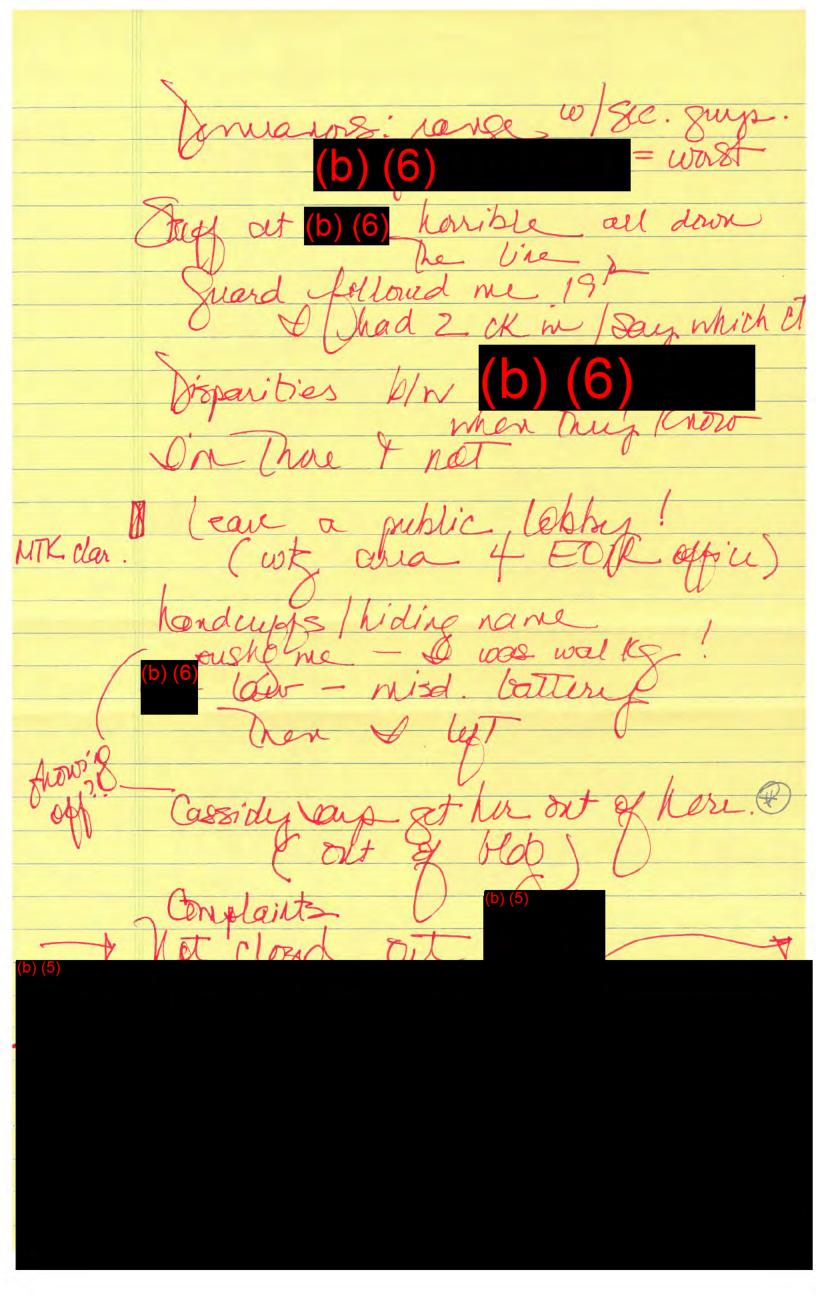
We talked some about transparency, and I pointed her to our website, and explained the page that would contain statistics in the near future.

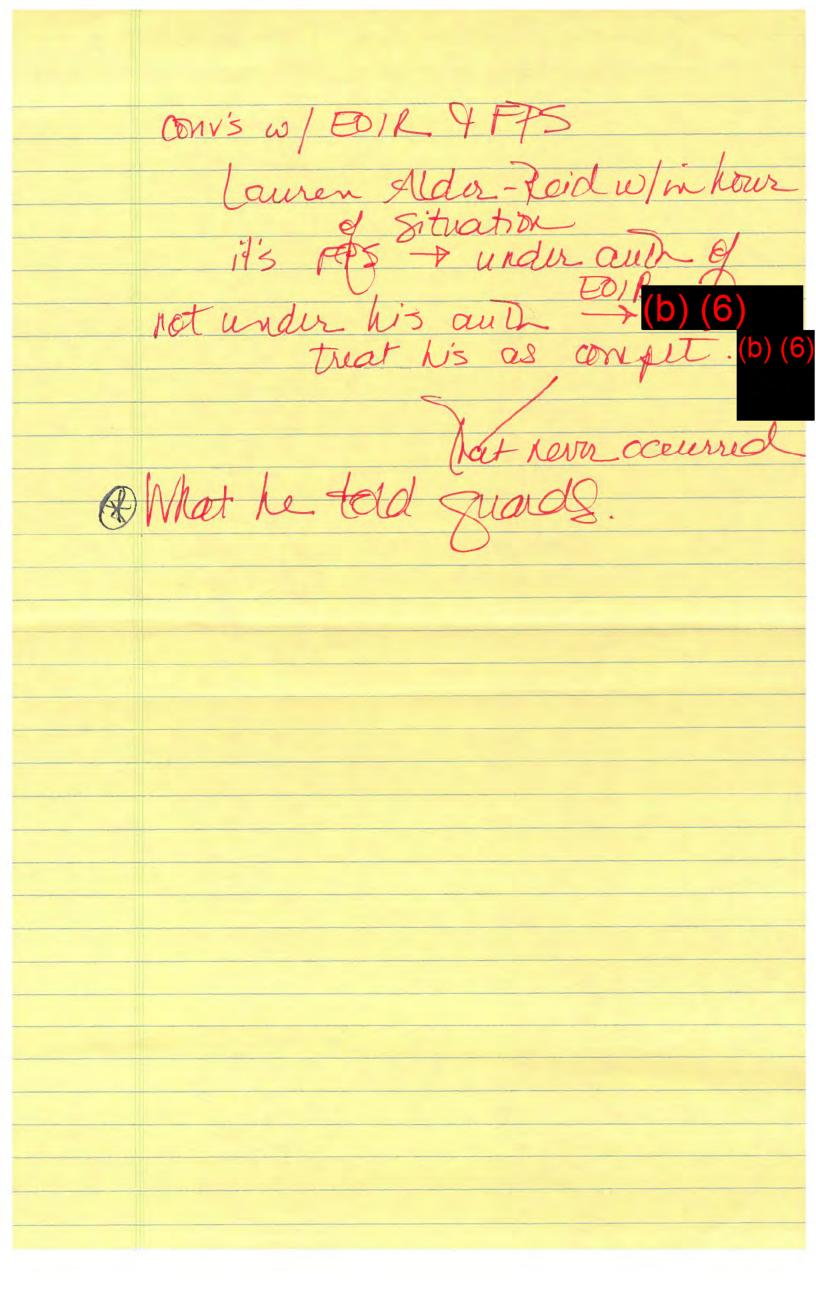
She also complained about our Public Affairs office, as well as the general approach of not allowing public employees to talk to the media.

She invited me to have lunch with her, on or off the record, during an upcoming trip to DC.

Despite the nature of her comments and the above summary, the conversation remained cordial throughout.







hiding him from me Said low the Fri Should MON! Cancel! He trud. He trud. He pregid re-soot he did. Sat hrough w/ lawyers ni a.m. Desails for AILA & appeal
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(b) (6)

6.10.10

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(3) Cassidy has hid by Onis w/ interp. would pro se / on televideo appears he's leging trother mact i - Subst - Unhappy BANKS (See J Then Smill space? que 21 - lunch AILA Doc. No. 19082161. (Posted 8/21/19)