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Contact:  
George Tzamaras, [GTzamaras@aila.org](mailto:GTzamaras@aila.org), 202-507-7649  
Cristina Velez, [cvelez@nipnlg.org](mailto:cvelez@nipnlg.org), 347-941-1164  
Maria Frausto, [mfrausto@immcouncil.org](mailto:mfrausto@immcouncil.org), 202-507-7526

## New FOIA Request Filed to Force Agency to Release Immigration Court Operations Information on COVID-19 Pandemic

WASHINGTON, DC— The American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), the American Immigration Council, and the National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild (NIPNLG) filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request today to obtain documents related to the Executive Office for Immigration Review's (EOIR) response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

To date, COVID-19 has caused a national death toll of over 150,000 people, a number that rises every day. Throughout the pandemic, suspected COVID-19 infections have forced numerous immigration courts to frequently close without explanation and without adequate communication to the public. There have been deeply troubling [reports](#) about individuals who have passed away from COVID-19, including at least one AILA member, following appearances in immigration court. The public has a right to know the safeguards that EOIR has in place to prevent the unnecessary illness and possible death of numerous individuals still reporting to work in immigration courts throughout the country.

EOIR—which oversees immigration courts—has repeatedly ignored requests for information from immigration organizations, lawmakers, the media, and even its own employees about the most basic immigration court operations. The FOIA request filed today seeks expedited processing for correspondence and documents that are integral to understanding EOIR's operations during the COVID-19 health crisis.

The FOIA request is online, [here](#).

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*The [American Immigration Lawyers Association](#) is the national association of immigration lawyers established to promote justice, advocate for fair and reasonable immigration law and policy, advance the quality of immigration and nationality law and practice, and enhance the professional development of its members. Follow AILA on Twitter [@AILANational](#).*

*The [American Immigration Council](#) works to strengthen America by shaping how America thinks about and acts towards immigrants and immigration and by working toward a more fair and just immigration system that opens its doors to those in need of protection and unleashes the energy and skills that immigrants bring. The Council brings together problem solvers and employs four coordinated approaches to advance change—litigation, research, legislative and administrative advocacy, and communications. Follow the latest Council news and information on [ImmigrationImpact.com](#) and Twitter [@immcouncil](#).*

The [National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild](#) (NIPNLG) is a national non-profit organization that provides technical assistance and support to community-based immigrant organizations, legal practitioners, and all advocates seeking and working to advance the rights of noncitizens. NIPNLG utilizes impact litigation, advocacy, and public education to pursue its mission. Follow NIPNLG on social media: [National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild](#) on Facebook, [@NIPNLG](#) on Twitter.