



AMERICAN  
IMMIGRATION  
LAWYERS  
ASSOCIATION

September 12, 2019

Mr. Kenneth T. Cuccinelli, Esq.  
Acting Director, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services  
Department of Homeland Security  
20 Massachusetts Ave., NW Washington, DC 20529

Via Email: [Kenneth.T.Cuccinelli@uscis.dhs.gov](mailto:Kenneth.T.Cuccinelli@uscis.dhs.gov)

Dear Acting Director Cuccinelli:

In recognition of your recent appointment as the Acting Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) would like to take this opportunity to request a meeting to introduce myself and members of AILA's executive team, and to hear about your vision for the agency as Acting Director. We share mutual interests in ensuring that the legal immigration system operates effectively and efficiently, while safeguarding its integrity. A dialogue with AILA can help USCIS fulfill its mission in concert with those priorities and honors our long history of mutually beneficial engagement with USCIS and legacy INS leadership.

By way of background, AILA is a bar association of more than 15,000 attorneys and law professors practicing and teaching in the field of immigration and nationality law. Our mission includes the advancement of the law pertaining to immigration and nationality and the facilitation of justice in the field. AILA members regularly advise and represent businesses, U.S. citizens, lawful permanent residents, and foreign nationals regarding the application and interpretation of U.S. immigration laws. With diverse practices that touch upon all aspects of immigration and naturalization law (family, employment, humanitarian), AILA members are regularly in contact with USCIS field offices, asylum offices, and service centers in the course of representing their clients.

As you are aware, our immigration laws are notoriously complex. No one understands the nuances of those laws better than USCIS personnel and AILA attorneys who advise and represent businesses, U.S. citizens, lawful permanent residents, and foreign nationals on immigration and nationality matters. As lawyers, we have unique insight on the practical consequences of complex legal and policy matters that are often unforeseen when new policies and procedures are implemented.

In light of our mutual interest in ensuring an effective and efficient legal immigration system, we respectfully request a meeting with you at your earliest convenience to introduce ourselves and to hear from you with respect to your vision for the agency. To arrange a date and time, or if you would like more information, please contact Shev Dalal-Dheini, Director of Government Relations, at (202) 507-7621 or by e-mail at [sdalal-dheini@aila.org](mailto:sdalal-dheini@aila.org).

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ben Johnson  
Executive Director  
American Immigration Lawyers Association

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