



ADMINISTRATIVE CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED STATES

Committee on Adjudication Minutes January 25, 2012

Members Attending

Judge John Vittone (ret.) (Chair)	Edward Kelly	Judge Randall J. Frye
Judge Robert Lesnick Adam Loiacono, (on behalf of Ivan K. Fong)(by telephone)	Nadine Mancini Robert Schiff	Judge Daniel Solomon Elaine Kaplan (by telephone) Glenn Sklar (by telephone) Doris Meissner
Susan Tsui Grundmann	Judge Robert A. Giannasi	

ACUS Staff Attending

Paul R. Verkuil Chairman	Jeffery Lubbers Acting Director of Research & Policy	Funmi E. Olorunnipa Staff Counsel
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Invited Guests Attending

Russell R. Wheeler,
Consultant, ACUS Immigration Adjudication Project
Lenni B. Benson,
Consultant, ACUS Immigration Adjudication Project

Members of the Public Attending

Chris Rickerd, American Civil Liberties Union
Monique Miles, Immigration Reform Law Institute
Jack Martin, Federation for American Immigration Reform
Kate Voigt, American Immigration Lawyers Association

The meeting commenced at 1:30 pm in the Conference Room of the Administrative Conference (“the Conference”). Judge Vittone began by welcoming the Committee members. Chairman Verkuil also briefly introduced himself and welcomed Committee members. Judge Vittone then called for approval of the meeting minutes from the April 27, 2011 Committee meeting. Ms. Grundmann requested a correction in the name of the individual listed as having attended the April 27, 2011 meeting on her behalf. Ms. Olorunnipa noted the correction. The meeting minutes (as corrected) were approved by voice vote of the Committee members in



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attendance. Mr. Lubbers then provided a few administrative remarks. Judge Vittone then proceeded to introducing the project currently being considered by the Committee, the Immigration Adjudication Project. Judge Vittone then introduced the Project's consultants, Ms. Benson and Mr. Wheeler and called upon them to present their research and research findings. Mr. Wheeler began by discussing the framework for analysis and methods used for the study. He detailed how the consultants conducted a literature review; reviewed data collected from agencies and from other sources; administered a survey of immigration judges and conducted interviews with representatives from various agencies who deal with immigration removal adjudication and related issues. Mr. Wheeler then gave an overview and background of immigration removal adjudication procedures generally and he discussed the role that various agencies play in those procedures. Mr. Wheeler then gave a general overview of the issues examined by the consultants in the draft report and the recommendations contained in the report.

Ms. Benson then proceeded to discuss in detail those recommendations contained in the draft report and the accompanying outline of the recommendations previously circulated by email to the Committee. Ms. Benson first discussed those recommendations concerning resource enhancement for agencies dealing with immigration removal adjudication procedures. She then discussed those recommendations concerning reducing the demand for services from the Department of Justice's Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR). She then discussed those recommendations concerning process modification, specifically detailing proposed changes to the way in which immigration courts process cases and proposed changes to how immigration courts are managed. Throughout the presentation by Mr. Wheeler and Ms. Benson, members of the Committee asked various questions about the research conducted, the report and the recommendations contained in the draft report and those questions were addressed by the consultants.

Following the presentation by Mr. Wheeler and Ms. Benson, Judge Vittone called upon Ms. Olorunnipa to provide the Committee with a demonstration of the Conference's new virtual meeting procedures. Ms. Olorunnipa provided the Committee with instructions on how they could participate in the Conference's online virtual meeting on the Immigration Adjudication Project and noted that the virtual meeting would start in February and continue for several weeks to allow members of the Committee and the public to submit comments about the Project.

Following Ms. Olorunnipa's presentation, Judge Vittone asked whether there were any public attendees who wished to speak at that time. Mr. Martin, from the Federation for American Immigration Reform provided a comment. Chairman Verkuil then noted that the consultants for the Immigration Adjudication Project would be revising their draft report based on additional information received from a survey administered to immigration judges, comments received at the meeting and additional comments recently received from the public. Ms.



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Olorunnipa noted that she would circulate a revised draft report and enclosed recommendations before the next Committee meeting on February 22, 2012. Judge Vittone then adjourned the meeting at 4:33 pm.