



Department of Justice

Executive Office for Immigration Review

Office of the General Counsel

5107 Leesburg Pike, Suite 1903
Falls Church, Virginia 22041

September 21, 2018

Jacqueline Stevens
Northwestern University
Dept. of Political Science
601 University Place
Evanston, IL 60208

Re: FOIA 2015-27249

Dear Prof. Stevens,

This letter is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) in which you seek investigatory materials relating to certain complaints against immigration judges (IJs). We apologize for the delay in providing this response; the response was delayed both by the complexity of the request, and the litigation surrounding *AILA v. EOIR*.

Responsive documents are enclosed. Portions of the enclosed documents have been redacted in accordance with 5 U. S.C. § 552(b)(6) to avoid a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, and/or 5 U. S.C. § 552(b)(5) to protect privileged information. The reason for redaction is clearly marked on each redacted portion. Additionally, each complaint was evaluated for release in conformity with *AILA v. EOIR*, No. 13-840 (D.D.C. filed June 6, 2013). In each case, it was determined that the public interest in release did not outweigh the privacy interest of the immigration judge.

There will be no charge for the enclosed documents.

Please note that the following complaint numbers did not contain any responsive records: 253, 513, 678, 682, and 718. These complaints may have been combined with other complaints, or may have been expunged from the record pursuant to an agreement or order.

In the following cases, documents not created or maintained by EOIR were referred to other agencies for direct response to you:

#789: Report of Investigation (Office of the Inspector General)
#770: Memorandum of 6/4/2013 w/attachment (Office of the Inspector General)
#731: Report of Investigation (Office of the Inspector General)

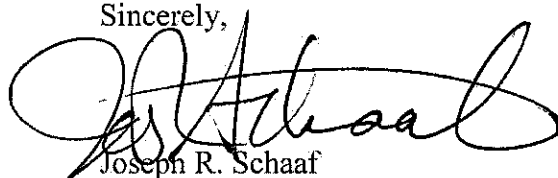
#762: E-mails and documents Oct 2012 (ICE)
E-mail of 2/11/2013 (Office of Professional Responsibility)
Letter of 8/8/2014 (Office of Professional Responsibility)
E-mail of 7/12/2012 (ICE)

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. *See* 5 U.S.C. § 552(c) (2006 & Supp. IV 2010). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist. *See* <http://www.justice.gov/oip/foiapost/2012foiapost9.html>.

You may contact our FOIA Public Liaison at the telephone number 703-605-1297 for any further assistance and to discuss any aspect of your request. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, Room 2510, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

If you are not satisfied with my response to this request, you may administratively appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy (OIP), United States Department of Justice, Suite 11050, 1425 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20530-0001, or you may submit an appeal through OIP's FOIAonline portal by creating an account on the following web site: <https://foiaonline.regulations.gov/foia/action/public/home>. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted within 90 days of the date of my response to your request. If you submit your appeal by mail, both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Schaaf", written over a horizontal line.

Joseph R. Schaaf

Chief Counsel for Administrative Law

Enclosure:

EOIR FOIA# 2015-27249

Single Complaint Detail

Complaint Number: 783

Immigration Judge: (b) (6)

Complaint Date: 05/17/13

Current ACIJ
Santoro, Christopher A.

Base City
(b) (6)

Status
CLOSED

Final Action
Decision - suspension

Final Action Date
01/09/14

A-Number(s)	Complaint Nature(s)	Complaint Source(s)
(b) (6)	Out-of-court conduct	EOIR ACIJ (b) (6)

Complaint Narrative:

IJ engaged in ex parte communications with counsel in 2 cases to clear (b) (6) calendar to take leave so (b) (6) could tell (b) (6) ACIJ that (b) (6) had no cases. IJ was not candid w/ACIJ about those circumstances. IJ failed to complete 19 reserved decisions by dates established by the ACIJ.

Complaint History	
05/17/13	ACIJ becomes aware of the circumstances surrounding the allegations
07/24/13	Proposed suspension 7 days 7 days From: 2014-03-31 To: 2014-04-06
07/26/13	Database entry created
08/12/13	Extension request granted for response until 9/9/13
09/16/13	IJ Response received
09/24/13	Oral response set for 9/27/13
09/27/13	Oral Response
09/27/13	Oral Response conducted
01/09/14	DCIJ upholds the decision
01/09/14	Decision - suspension 7 days From: 2014-03-31 To: 2014-04-06