

Exhibit A

Declaration of Immigration Judge Cassidy

Stevens v. Holder, et al., 1:12-CV-1352-ODE
FEDERAL DEFENDANTS' MEMORANDUM OF LAW
SUPPORTING SUMMARY JUDGMENT

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
ATLANTA DIVISION**

JACQUELINE STEVENS,

Plaintiff,

v.

ERIC H. HOLDER, JR., Attorney
General of the United States, *et al.*,

Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION NO.
1:12-CV-1352-ODE

DECLARATION OF WILLIAM A. CASSIDY

I, William A. Cassidy, declare as follows:

1. This declaration is based upon my personal knowledge. If called to testify to these facts, I could and would do so competently.
2. I am familiar with the above-captioned litigation and make this declaration in support of Federal Defendants' Motion for Summary Judgment.
3. I am an Immigration Judge with the Atlanta Immigration Court, Executive Office for Immigration Review ("EOIR"). I have served as an Immigration Judge from October 4, 1993, to the present.

4. In my capacity as Immigration Judge, I have presided over and made decisions in proceedings including but not limited to deportation, exclusion, removal, rescission, and bond.

5. On my afternoon docket of October 7, 2009, there were three cases scheduled for hearing before me.

6. Because I rescheduled on the attorney's motion one of the three hearings scheduled before me on the afternoon docket of October 7, 2009, two hearings went forward that afternoon.

7. One hearing on my afternoon docket of October 7, 2009, involved a respondent convicted of sexual battery of a minor.

8. I closed this hearing pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § 1003.27 at the request of the respondent's attorney out of concern for the respondent's privacy and for the protection of the respondent.

9. In the second hearing that went forward on my afternoon docket of October 7, 2009, the respondent was an asylum claimant and requested the hearing be closed to the public.

10. I closed this hearing pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § 1208.6 given the respondent's asylum claim.

11. On April 19, 2010, one hearing was scheduled on my afternoon docket. The respondent in that hearing requested the hearing be closed to the public.

12. In the course of this hearing, the alien-party revealed that he "social[ized] with some gay – gay people" and was concerned with returning to his home country given his "social life."

13. I closed the sole hearing on my April 19, 2010, afternoon docket to the public pursuant to 8 C.F.R. §§ 1003.27, 1208.6 due to respondent's Convention Against Torture claim and out of concern for the respondent's privacy and for the protection of the respondent.

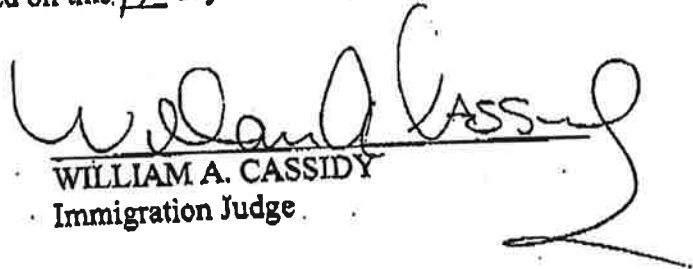
14. In the afternoon hearings held on October 7, 2009, and April 19, 2010, I closed my courtroom to the entire public. Aside from EOIR employees, the only persons allowed to remain in the courtroom were counsel for those respondents who were represented and family and friends who were present and approved by the respondents.

15. As I understand it, Jacqueline Stevens lodged an administrative complaint with EOIR addressing my handling of hearing closures on April 19, 2010. To my knowledge, EOIR investigated this complaint, found no wrongdoing, and responded accordingly in a letter to Ms. Stevens.

~~I declare under penalty of perjury pursuant to the laws of the United States~~
of America that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

This declaration was executed on this 17th day of January 2014, in

1/17/14.


WILLIAM A. CASSIDY
Immigration Judge.