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NEWS RELEASE

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Board to Begin Providing Copy of Decision to Aliens Who Are Represented by Counsel

FALLS CHURCH, Va. – As part of an ongoing effort to enhance its service to the immigration community, the Board of Immigration Appeals (Board) announced today that by March 1, 2009, it will begin to provide a copy of its final decision to all aliens in proceedings, regardless of whether the alien is represented by counsel.

Currently, if an alien is not represented by counsel, the Board sends a copy of its final decision to the alien. However, if an alien is represented by counsel, the Board sends its final decision only to the alien's attorney. The new procedure being announced today means that in cases where the alien is represented, both the attorney and the alien will receive a copy of the Board's decision. The copy that is being sent to represented aliens is strictly being provided as a courtesy; the service of the decision on the alien's attorney will continue to constitute the "required service" under 8 C.F.R. § 1292.5(a).

– EOIR –

The Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) is an agency within the Department of Justice. Under delegated authority from the Attorney General, immigration judges and the Board of Immigration Appeals interpret and adjudicate immigration cases according to United States immigration laws. EOIR's immigration judges conduct administrative court proceedings in immigration courts located throughout the nation. They determine whether foreign-born individuals—who are charged by the Department of Homeland Security with violating immigration law—should be ordered removed from the United States or should be granted relief from removal and be permitted to remain in this country. The Board of Immigration Appeals primarily reviews appeals of decisions by immigration judges. EOIR's Office of the Chief Administrative Hearing Officer adjudicates immigration-related employment cases. EOIR is committed to ensuring fairness in all of the cases it adjudicates.