

March 30, 2009

Letter to the Editor
USA Today

Dear Editor:

Brad Heath's March 30, 2009, article "Immigration courts face huge backlog," gives the incorrect impression that the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) is not aware of the demands on its immigration judges. The EOIR spokesperson did not state that the Department has enough judges. Rather, she said that we feel comfortable we will be able to deal with our caseload with the resources received. In addition, as was discussed with the reporter, Mr. Heath's article does not mention the 2009 Omnibus bill recently signed by President Obama which provides \$5 million to EOIR to hire new immigration judges. Congress and the Administration are aware of our current and continuing needs and continue to work together to address them. Having said that, we are constantly reviewing our resource needs, including assessing and requesting the number of immigration judges required to fairly and efficiently handle the cases in our immigration courts.

Our immigration judges are committed to adjudicating all cases as expeditiously as possible with an eye toward fairness and due process. I commend the immigration judges for doing their best to handle their caseloads.

We appreciate the opportunity to clarify the record.

Sincerely,

/s/

Thomas G. Snow
Acting Director
Executive Office for Immigration Review