



U.S. Department of Justice

Executive Office for Immigration Review

Office of the Director

Director

5107 Leesburg Pike, Suite 2600

Falls Church, Virginia 22041

August 16, 2006

Editor
New York Daily News
450 W. 33rd Street
New York, New York 10001

Dear Editor:

In your August 15, 2006, editorial, "It's Time for U.S. to Bridle Unfair Judges," you make mention of several cases where immigration judges are quoted as making inappropriate and insensitive comments to respondents appearing before them in court. Like you, we are disturbed by those cases and firmly believe that one instance of intemperance is one instance too many.

As Attorney General Gonzales pointed out from his review of the court and in his reform measures highlighted August 9, at our 2006 Immigration Judges' Training Conference, "the review has left me reassured of the talent and professionalism that exists in the Immigration Courts and at the Board of Immigration Appeals." Of the 300,000 matters handled each year by our 224 Immigration Judges, the review revealed that the vast majority of immigration judges discharge their duties in a professional manner in which we can be proud--often completing three to four cases a day which are firmly grounded in the rule of law. To view the majority of the judges through the lens of a few diminishes the dedication and commitment to the job that so many bring to the bench.

We know there is room for improvement and are committed to that effort. We look forward to implementing the Attorney General's reform measures in the coming months.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kevin D. Rooney".

Kevin D. Rooney
Director