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NEWS RELEASE

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EOIR's Board of Immigration Appeals to Grant Fewer and Shorter Extensions of Briefing Deadlines for Detained Cases

FALLS CHURCH, Va. – In an effort to reduce detention time for aliens in removal proceedings who have filed case appeals with the Executive Office for Immigration Review's (EOIR's) Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA), beginning August 14, 2006, the BIA will grant fewer and shorter extensions of initial briefing deadlines.

The federal courts and aliens, through litigation, have expressed concern about the amount of time detained aliens are in proceedings and, consequently, remain detained. The change is part of an EOIR-wide effort to respond to these concerns and reduce the amount of time a detained alien is in proceedings.

This change will apply only to cases involving **detained** aliens, and only for requests to **extend** the initial deadline by which both parties (the alien/alien's legal representative and the government/Department of Homeland Security) must file their briefs for a case appeal before the BIA. It will eliminate the unintended delays that often occur when both parties file requests to extend the briefing deadline within days of each other and, consequently, two separate extensions are granted.

The BIA's practices will change, generally, as follows:

- The BIA will allow only **one extension** to an initial briefing deadline **per case**. The one extension, if granted, will apply to both parties; and
- The BIA will reduce the time period granted for an **extension** of an initial briefing deadline **from 21 days to 15 days**. (The initial deadline for filing briefs will continue to remain at 21 days for both parties.)

The new procedures will apply to extension requests filed on or after August 14, 2006, as indicated in the *Federal Register* notice that appears in *Vol. 71, No. 135, p. 40151 / July 14, 2006*.

— EOIR —

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EOIR is responsible for adjudicating immigration cases. Specifically, under delegated authority from the Attorney General, EOIR interprets and administers federal immigration laws by conducting immigration court proceedings, appellate reviews, and administrative hearings. EOIR consists of three components: the Office of the Chief Immigration Judge, which is responsible for managing the numerous immigration courts located throughout the United States where immigration judges adjudicate individual cases; the Board of Immigration Appeals, which primarily conducts appellate reviews of immigration judge decisions; and the Office of the Chief Administrative Hearing Officer, which adjudicates immigration-related employment cases. EOIR is committed to providing fair, expeditious, and uniform application of the nation's immigration laws in all cases.

Information about EOIR immigration proceedings is available on EOIR's website <http://www.usdoj.gov/eoir/press/subject.htm>.