

U.S. Department of Justice

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FACT SHEET

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EOIR's Fraud and Abuse Prevention Program

In 2006, the attorney general called for the creation of a procedure for identifying and referring claims of fraud encountered by immigration judges and other personnel at the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR). In response to this directive, the EOIR general counsel, pursuant to a newly published regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 1003.0(e)(2), appointed an anti-fraud officer to oversee EOIR's Fraud and Abuse Prevention Program. The goal of the program is to protect the integrity of EOIR's removal proceedings – working to deter fraud and abuse in the immigration system by:

- Serving as a central location to receive information relating to instances of suspected
 immigration fraud against the government or fraud against respondents, including fraud
 involving the unauthorized practice of immigration law. The Fraud Program receives
 referrals regarding fraudulent activity by respondents, practitioners, and others. Referrals
 come from many sources including immigration judges and immigration court staff,
 Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) members and staff, private attorneys, respondents,
 and members of the general public.
- Coordinating with and responding to requests for assistance from federal and state law
 enforcement entities and disciplinary authorities to ensure that cases of fraud and abuse
 are appropriately investigated and prosecuted.
- Coordinating with <u>EOIR's Attorney Discipline Program</u> and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' (USCIS) disciplinary counsel in cases that call for the discipline of immigration attorneys and non-attorney practitioners who represent respondents before the immigration courts, the BIA, and USCIS.
- Conducting Fraud Program training for EOIR employees and contractors, and providing guidance and resource materials to staff on an ongoing basis.
- Disseminating information to the public about fraud and scam issues against respondents in immigration proceedings before EOIR.

Referrals may be sent to the Fraud Program via email to the Fraud and Abuse Prevention Counsel, at <u>EOIR.Fraud.Program@usdoj.gov</u>, or by phone to the Office of the General Counsel at 703-305-0470.