UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON AT SEATTLE

J.E.F.M. a minor, by and through his Next Friend, | Case No. 2:14-cv-01026-TSZ Bob Ekblad; et al.,

Plaintiffs-Petitioners,

V.

LORETTA E. LYNCH, et al.,

Defendants-Respondents.

DEPOSITION OF HONORABLE JACK H. WEIL October 15, 2015 Washington, DC

Reported by:

Ann Medis

Job no: 15047

ORIGINAL

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           Oral deposition of HONORABLE JACK H. WEIL,
      called by the Plaintiffs for examination, taken by
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 4
      and before Ann Medis, Registered Professional
      Reporter and Notary Public, held at the American
 5
      Immigration Council, 1331 G Street, NW, Suite 200,
 7
      Washington, DC 20005, on Thursday, October 15,
      2015, commencing at 12:39 p.m.
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				Page 4
1		* I N D E X *		
2	HONORABLE JA	CK H. WEIL	PAGE	
3	EXAMINATIO	N BY MR. ARULANANTHAM	5	
4		* INDEX OF EXHIBITS *		
5	NO.	DESCRIPTION	PAGE	
6	Exhibit 11	Memorandum, 5/22/07, from D. Neal to All Immigration Judges, et al.,	17	
7		subject: Operating Policies and Procedures Memorandum 07-01: Guidelines for Immigration Court		
8		Cases Involving Unaccompanied Alien Children		
9	Exhibit 12	Email, 4/22/15, from J. Weil to	58	
10		J. Osuna, et al., subject: Final Agenda for April 23-24 Juvenile	50	
11		Docket Training (Corrected) EOIR000254 - 000258		
12	Exhibit 13	2015 EOIR Legal Training Program-	81	:
13		Course Descriptions EOIR000259 - 000269		
14	Exhibit 14	Email, 3/24/15, from S. Boone-	124	
15		Fisher to All of Judges, subject: Docketing Practices	12.1	
16		Related to UC and AWC/ATD Cases in Light of New Priorities (On		
17		Behalf of CIJ O'Leary) EOIR000229 - 000232		
	Exhibit 15	to All Asylum Office Staff,	136	
20		subject: Updates Procedures for Determination of Initial		
21		Jurisdiction over Asylum Applications Filed by Unaccompanied		
22		Alien Children		
23				1
24				
25				
18 19 20 21 22 23 24	Exhibit 15	Memorandum, 5/28/13, from T. Kim to All Asylum Office Staff, subject: Updates Procedures for Determination of Initial Jurisdiction over Asylum Applications Filed by Unaccompanied	136	

		Page 5
1.	HONORABLE JACK H. WEIL,	
2	having been first duly sworn, was examined	
3	and testified as follows:	
4	EXAMINATION	
5	BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:	
6	Q. Will you state your full name for the	
7	record.	
8	A. Jack H. Weil, W-E-I-L.	
9	Q. You've been deposed before; correct?	
10	A. Yes.	
11	Q. How many times?	
12	A. One that I recall.	
13	Q. What was that in?	
14	A. I don't have an independent	
15	recollection, but as mentioned by counsel, it may	
16	have been the Rodriguez litigation, but I'm not	
17	sure.	
18	Q. Well, since it's been a while, I'll just	
19	run through some rules with you which I'm sure	
20	you're familiar with. Let's not talk at the same	
21	time because the reporter is taking notes.	
22	Do you understand that?	
23	A. Yes.	
24	Q. And could you give a verbal, audible	
25	response for the same reason. I'm entitled to	

- 1 your estimates. If I ask you for something you
- 2 don't know with complete certainty, you don't have
- 3 to guess. I'll give you a simple example just to
- 4 be clear. If I ask you how long did it take you
- 5 to get here today, even though you may not know
- 6 the exact minutes, you still should give me an
- 7 answer. If I ask you how long I took to get here
- 8 today, that's obviously just a guess.
- 9 Do you understand that?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Mr. Silvis may object to my questions
- from time to time. If he does and it's on the
- 13 basis of privilege, he'll instruct you not to
- answer and you shouldn't do that. If it's on
- 15 another basis, then you can respond
- 16 notwithstanding the objection. It's just made for
- 17 the record. Is that clear?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. If you need to take a break for any
- 20 reason, let us know. I'll ask you not to take a
- 21 break while a question is pending. Otherwise,
- 22 feel free.
- 23 Are you taking any medications or drugs or is
- there any other reason why you would not be able
- 25 to testify fully today?

Page 7 1 Α. No. Do you understand, of course, that you're under oath today. Just like at trial, it 3 would be perjury if you give a false statement. Α. Yes. I previously marked as Exhibit 1 today's 30(b)(6) deposition notice. I'm going to hand you that. Are you familiar with that document? you seen it before? If you flip to page 6, 9 there's topics there. Are you familiar with that? 10 (Witness reviewed the exhibit.) 11 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM: 12 Are you familiar with that document? 13 0. Have you seen it before? 14 I've seen portions of it. I'm not sure 15 if it's the entire document. 16 As I understand, you're authorized to 17 0. speak for the Department of Justice on the some 18 topics, but not others. Can you tell me which 19 ones? 20 I don't recall, off the top of my head, 21 22 which specific numbers. MR. ARULANANTHAM: Can we go off the 23 record for one moment? 24

MR. SILVIS: Sure.

25

Page 8 (There was a discussion off the record.) 1 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM: 2 So are you authorized to speak for the 3 Department of Justice on topics 1 through 6? 5 Α. Yes. Q. And topics 9 through 11? 7 Α. Yes. Ο. And 13 through 16? 9 Α. Yes. 1.0 Q. I think your attorney and I have some dispute, which I hope is not material, about 7 and 11 I'm interested in the extent to which the EOIR 12 has information about topic 7 and 8. I may ask 13 14 you questions about that, too. We can cross that 15 bridge when we get there. 16 Do you understand that? 17 Α. Yes. 18 What did you do to prepare for this deposition? 19 20 Four things. I read all of the 21 documents that were cited in the questions that 22 we've identified. I looked at some discovery 23 documents that were presented. I met with counsel 24 and the deputy chief immigration judge. 25 Q. Who is that?

- 1 A. Edward Kelly. And then I contacted
- 2 immigration judges in the cities where the named
- 3 plaintiffs are located. So it would be Houston,
- 4 Los Angeles and Seattle and had handled juvenile
- 5 dockets.
- 6 Q. And spoke with them?
- 7 A. Correct.
- 8 Q. Do you know the names of the judges that
- 9 you spoke with?
- 10 A. Yes. So in Houston it would be Judge
- 11 Brisack and Judge Yates. In Los Angeles it would
- 12 be Judge Travieso, Judge Tabador, and Judge Hong.
- 13 Then in Seattle it would be Judge DeFonzo.
- 14 O. Are those the only judges that hear
- 15 cases involving children in those cities?
- 16 A. No. They're the ones that I believe
- 17 hear cases of -- the ones that are not adults with
- 18 children. I think they're doing more cases that
- 19 are not family cases.
- Q. So if a child is in a proceeding, but
- 21 there's no adult consolidated with that proceeding
- in one of these cities, then one of these judges
- 23 will hear that child's case?
- A. No adult I mean apart from counsel or
- 25 apart from a custodian.

- 1 Q. But otherwise that's correct?
- 2 A. Um-hum. That's my understanding.
- Q. What did you discuss with Ed Kelly,
- 4 Judge Ed Kelly?
- 5 A. Not much. Really what I wanted to do
- 6 was just to confirm the issuance of the policies,
- 7 just dates. Kind of it's an archival matter
- 8 regarding the policy and really just to confirm,
- 9 to make sure that it was issued when I thought it
- was or how I thought it was. Nothing regarding
- 11 the contents of the policy or how it's
- 12 implemented.
- Q. By the policy you're referring to the
- 14 policies that are in the topics of the deposition
- 15 notice?
- A. Exactly, and not all of those, but there
- 17 were certain ones I had questions.
- 18 Q. Do you remember which ones you discussed
- 19 amongst these?
- 20 A. I do not.
- Q. What did you discuss with the judges?
- 22 A. I understood what the policy was. I
- 23 wanted to make sure that they were aware of the
- 24 policies and to find out what they were doing
- regarding implementation of the policies.

Page 11 Do you remember how long you spoke for? 1 Ο. It varied from judge to judge. Α. 2 These were individual conversations? 3 Q. Individual, each judge individual, Α. 4 um-hum. 5 How long were the conversations roughly? Ο. 6 Α. I would quess, I would estimate 45 Some were shorter because as you speak minutes. to one -- there was consistency among judges. as you spoke to one and you started to hear 10 consistency in the policy, it wasn't necessary to 11 keep going. 12 Were there some areas where the judges 13 Q. reported different implementation of the policies 14 you discussed? 15 Various among themselves? 16 Α. Right, between judges. 17 Q. Not significantly. 18 Α. Were there any that you can remember? 19 Q. There may have been an instance where 20 one judge would continue and the other judge would 21 administratively close. When I say not 22 significantly, both stopped the proceeding for an 23 24 event to occur. That's in the context of? 25 Ο.

- A. Either waiting for a case to go to USCIS
- 2 for adjudication.
- 3 Q. Did you prepare any notes as part of the
- 4 preparation for this deposition?
- 5 A. I took notes of my conversations with
- 6 the judges.
- Q. Are they here?
- A. The notes?
- 9 Q. Yeah.
- 10 A. No.
- 11 Q. I read your Rodriquez testimony for
- 12 purposes of understanding a history of your
- positions and employment history. Is there any
- 14 reason to believe that the testimony that you gave
- there on that question is inaccurate for any
- 16 reason?
- A. It's not up to date, and I don't recall
- 18 the testimony. I honestly can't even remember
- 19 when the Rodriguez deposition was.
- Q. As to information beyond that, it would
- 21 be quite remarkable if you testified about that.
- 22 But as to your description of your history and job
- 23 responsibilities and things like that prior to
- that time, is there any reason to believe the
- 25 testimony you gave would not be inaccurate?

Page 13 1 I don't recall the testimony. What I said under oath would be correct. What is your title now? My title now is assistant chief Α. immigration judge. Is there a particular area that you're 6 0. responsible for as assistant chief immigration judge? There's three. One is training. I supervise the daily operations of the 10 immigration courts in the State of Pennsylvania. 11 I'm currently in an acting capacity as the 12 assistant chief immigration judge for vulnerable 13 populations. 14 What are vulnerable populations? 15 Ο. I think vulnerable populations are 16 Α. individuals who due to capacity or condition pose 17 a risk -- that if safeguard or protection is not 18 taken, there's potential that the proceeding could 19

- Q. What are the vulnerable populations for
- whom in your view that may be true?

be less than fundamentally fair.

20

- 23 A. The main focus is on mental competence
- 24 and children, but I think without specific
- 25 examples coming to mind, I think anybody that has

- 1 a condition or capacity that creates a potential
- 2 that a hearing could be less than fair could fall
- 3 into that definition. That's not an official
- 4 definition. That's my interpretation of it.
- 5 Q. How long have you been in that role?
- 6 But as I say that, I wonder if it's different for
- 7 the different three. How long have you been in
- 8 the role as the assistant chief immigration judge
- 9 for vulnerable populations acting?
- 10 A. I had done it once before several years
- 11 ago for a short period of time. I don't recall
- 12 the year or how long that was. And the
- 13 circumstances, they were hiring somebody and asked
- me to do it until a person was hired or multiple
- 15 people were hired. That person then left, and I
- 16 was approached in, I'm estimating, April of this
- 17 year to take that over again.
- 18 Q. Have you been responsible for the
- 19 training of judges as part of your role as
- 20 assistant chief immigration judge for a longer
- 21 period of time than that?
- 22 A. Yeah. That I started approximately
- 23 2009.
- Q. How long have you held the title
- 25 assistant chief immigration judge?

Since 2009 I was acting assistant chief 1 Α. for a short period. From 2013 to 2015 I was not 3 performing that role. So I was special counsel to the director of the EOIR on detail. So I was not an ACIJ for that period until I was approached again in April and asked to handle the vulnerable populations and also the training. From 2013 to 2015 I was serving a different I was not performing the functions. think officially my title was ACIJ. I was on 10 detail, but I was not performing in that position. 11 I was not in the Office of Assistant Chief 12 Immigration Judge. 13 What was the scope of your work as 14 special counsel to EOIR from 2013 to 2015? 15 Largely implementing EOIR's nationwide 16 policy for respondents with mental disorders, and 17 probably the other thing that occupied a lot of 18 time was putting together EOIR's training 19 conference for immigration judges, the Board of 20 Immigration Appeals and agency attorneys. 21 That training, the conference you just 22 Q. described, that's on everything immigration judges 23 do; correct? It's not limited to any particular 24 subject matter. You're talking about training, 25

- 1 generally the training the judges undergo; is that
- 2 correct?
- A. There's agendas for that training. It's
- 4 the topics covered in the agenda that's put
- 5 together.
- 6 Q. But it's not limited to vulnerable
- 7 populations?
- 8 A. Correct.
- 9 Q. For 2013 to '15, you weren't working on
- 10 children specifically at all; is that right?
- 11 A. Correct.
- Q. Who do you report to now?
- A. Right now my first line supervisor would
- 14 be the Deputy Chief Immigration Judge Michael
- McGoings.
- Q. Who's his supervisor?
- A. His supervisor right now is the acting
- 18 chief immigration judge. His name is Robert
- 19 Maggard, but he commonly goes by the name Print.
- Q. Is his supervisor Juan Osuna?
- 21 A. No. His supervisor would be the deputy
- 22 director of EOIR, Ana Kocur.
- Q. How many people report to you, do you
- 24 directly supervise?
- A. Right now I have one person who is on a

- 1 six-month detail who reports directly to me. I
- 2 have a contractor that I assign work to, and then
- 3 it would be employees in the Pennsylvania
- 4 immigration courts, the immigration judges in
- 5 Pennsylvania, the court administrator, the
- 6 judicial law clerks in Pennsylvania.
- 7 Q. The six-month detail on the contractor,
- 8 did they work also on vulnerable populations?
- 9 A. That person actually went on detail very
- 10 soon after they were assigned to me in the office
- of chief immigration judge. So pretty much
- they're working on the combined federal campaign.
- 13 Really they came to me and went on detail totally
- 14 unrelated. They're not doing anything related to
- immigration and won't be back until February.
- 16 O. And then contractor?
- 17 A. The contractor provides administrative
- 18 support.
- 19 (Exhibit 11 was marked.)
- 20 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:
- 21 O. I'm going to hand you what we will mark
- 22 as Exhibit 11. The document I've handed you is a
- 23 memorandum to all immigration judges from David L
- Neal, the assistant chief immigration judge. It's
- 25 dated May 22, 2007. The subject line is

Page 18 "Operating Policies and Procedures Memorandum 1 07-01." It goes on. Do you see the document I'm talking about? Α. I do. Q. Are you familiar with this document? Α. I am. What is it? 0. It's an operating policy and procedure 9 memorandum. It's issued by the chief judge to provide guidance to the immigration courts. 10 a way that they announce policies to immigration 11 12 judges. 13 Ο. Is it still in operation? 14 Α. It is. 15 If you look on the second page in the 16 second paragraph under Introduction, the last 17 sentence says, "Issues of age, development, 18 experience and self-determination impact how a 19 court deals with a child respondent." 20 Why is that true? 21 Different respondents in court need different treatment in order for the proceeding to 22 23 be fair. So whether they're adult or children, 24 people's education, people's experience in the 25 court system affect the way a judge needs to

Page 19 respond in a proceeding. 1 In order to make sure it's fair? Ο. Α. Correct. 3 Are there features of childhood Ο. specifically that make that concern true of 5 children as opposed to adults? I think if I understand your question --Α. can you ask it again? Sure. The sentence says things impact 9 Q. how to deal with a child respondent. My question 10 was: Are there features or aspects or 11 characteristics of children in particular that 12 make the concern about them not getting fair 13 proceedings particularly true as to them as 14 children? 15 16 MR. SILVIS: Are we asking in the context of this policy? 17 MR. ARULANANTHAM: Yeah. I'm asking him 18 to explain the sentence. 19 20 I think each respondent stands on their own, but there are certain common characteristics 21 of children that would cause the judge to make 22 sure that the proceeding is fair. 23 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM: 24 O. What are those? 25

- 1 A. Education which again applies in an
- 2 adult, but children based on age, just the fact
- 3 they haven't been on the planet for a certain
- 4 amount of time obviously are going to have less
- 5 education, less life experiences, those types of
- 6 things.
- 7 Q. What else? It says development and
- 8 experience and self-determination. Do you know
- 9 what those refer to?
- 10 A. Yeah. Development is child development,
- 11 physical development, psychological development of
- 12 a child. I think the thing that's important about
- this is it was also written when EOIR had less
- 14 experience dealing with children. So I'm not sure
- if it was written today that this is exactly how
- it would be written. Just like other classes,
- documents many times are issued, and then as you
- 18 get more experience. But I don't think that they
- 19 have gone through and there's been any need to at
- 20 this point rewrite that. But I don't know if it
- 21 was written today it would be written the same way
- 22 it was back then.
- Q. What would be said today in place of the
- 24 sentence?
- A. I wouldn't be -- I could be consulted,

- 1 but, I mean, we would actually have to sit with
- 2 people, the judges who have experience and talk
- 3 about it and I think redraft it. I'm not saying
- 4 the principles and the policies are not accurate.
- 5 But I think that with maturity of a process and
- 6 maturity of experience, that the guidance, the
- 7 things we say might be different.
- 8 Q. How would they be different?
- 9 MR. SILVIS: We're a little bit off
- 10 topic. If you're asking him to -- he can answer
- for himself, but these aren't binding on the
- 12 government.
- 13 A. If I was going to write this now, I
- 14 would take judges who are doing these cases and
- 15 sit around the table, look at the sentences and
- we'd probably consult with some experts.
- 17 This was not prepared, to the best of my
- 18 knowledge, with individuals who were experts in
- 19 child development, child psychiatry,
- 20 psychologists. These well written by lay people.
- 21 In response to, I think it would be a
- 22 collaborative drafting process to come up with a
- 23 new document.
- 24 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:
- Q. I quess I got the sense -- if this is

- 1 wrong, please correct -- I got the sense from what
- 2 you were saying earlier that you might take issue
- with the substance of this sentence today.
- 4 MR. SILVIS: Same objection.
- 5 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:
- 6 Q. Is that true?
- 7 A. I think the focus today would be more on
- 8 understanding the individual. Every child,
- 9 everybody is different and has different abilities
- 10 to function. And they need to look at each one
- individually. I think that's something we really
- 12 learned from the Franco litigation, is to what
- level is somebody able to perform, and it varies
- from person to person and child to child.
- We can identify categories of items that
- 16 would make us maybe look into that further, but I
- 17 think sweeping statements are not, based on our
- 18 experience, the way to go.
- 19 Q. Do you think childhood itself is such a
- 20 category?
- 21 MR. SILVIS: Same objection. You can
- answer for yourself, but he's not answering for
- 23 EOIR or DOJ.
- A. Different children are able to function
- 25 at different levels.

Page 23 1 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM: But are children as a category less 3 capable of functioning than adults for purposes of getting a fair hearing in immigration court? MR. SILVIS: Same objection. I don't think that's fair to say. You Α. have to look at the individual child. My child is taking AP physics. I can't do AP physics. don't think it's fair to categorize them. I think you have to look at each individual. 10 As I said, I think that's something we've 11 learned, as I said, out of the Franco litigation, 12 is that different people are capable of performing 13 at different functions, and what you have to do is 14 you have to look at the individual. 15 So while you may look at age and you may look 16 at education, you have to look at the totality of 17 the circumstances and the individual and make an 18 individual assessment as to what somebody is able 19

21 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:

20

Q. Would you say then that it's inappropriate for the agency even to be issuing

to perform or is not able to perform.

- 24 child specific guidance and protocols for judges
- in light of what you're saying now?

- 1 MR. SILVIS: I'll object to outside the
- 2 topic. Answer for yourself.
- A. No. I don't think it's inappropriate
- 4 for the court to give judges advice as to or
- 5 recommendations regarding how to best conduct a
- 6 proceeding so that it's fair.
- 7 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:
- 8 Q. Involving a child though; right?
- 9 A. Involving any respondent.
- 10 Q. But there isn't comparable guidance like
- this as to other groups of people other than I
- assume other vulnerable populations; isn't that
- 13 true?
- MR. SILVIS: Same objection.
- 15 A. When you say guidance like this, judges
- 16 are taught for every respondent that the
- 17 proceeding has to be fair. Judges are given
- 18 guidance as to how to conduct a fair proceeding.
- 19 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:
- Q. But this is called guidelines for
- 21 immigration court cases involving unaccompanied
- 22 alien children. So I would think from that title
- 23 that it's suggesting that there might be
- 24 guidelines that are specific to children or
- unaccompanied alien children as a group. Do you

- 1 disagree with that?
- A. Well, I think there are practices that
- 3 judges can take in cases of children to make sure
- 4 that the proceedings are fundamentally fair.
- 5 Q. That's true for adults, too; isn't it?
- 6 A. That is true.
- 7 Q. Is there anything different about
- 8 children that would justify guidance specific to
- 9 children?
- 10 MR. SILVIS: I'll object that we're
- outside the topic. You can answer for yourself.
- 12 A. I'm going to go back to the fact that
- for children you have to look at the child and you
- 14 have to determine what the child can perform. And
- 15 this document provides recommendations for
- 16 children that you can take in the case of a child
- 17 to make sure that the proceeding is fair.
- 18 For example, it says that -- one of the
- 19 examples they give is that the judge has the
- 20 authority to remove the robe. That doesn't mean
- 21 for an adult that you cannot remove the robe. A
- 22 that's why I disagree with the statement, because
- 23 that is something that we would -- did we write
- 24 guidance that says you can take off the robe for a
- 25 judge? Actually it says the judge is supposed to

- 1 wear the robe.
- 2 But in all of our policies the overlying
- 3 concern is due process. So in spite of the fact
- 4 they issue policy that says a judge should wear a
- 5 black robe in every proceeding, if I have an adult
- 6 respondent that I think for some reason that the
- 7 fact I'm wearing the robe is impacting, I can take
- 8 step. So yes, this was drafted with regard to
- 9 children, but that doesn't mean the steps cannot
- 10 be used or that we're not training with regard to
- 11 other individuals.
- 12 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:
- Q. When you say other individuals, you
- really mean any other individual; correct?
- 15 A. Any respondent to immigration
- 16 proceedings.
- 17 Q. I still want to understand your view on
- whether it's the department's view that there is
- anything different about children as a category
- 20 that justifies particular attention to the need
- 21 for safeguards to them as a group.
- MR. SILVIS: Objection. Asked and
- answered. I'll also say it's off topic. You can
- answer for yourself, but not for DOJ.
- 25 A. There are certain steps that we

- 1 recommend be taken specifically for children that
- 2 we do not take for other populations.
- 3 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:
- Q. Why is that?
- MR. SILVIS: Same objection.
- 6 A. Because we determined that that allows
- 7 the proceeding to be fundamentally fair. There
- 8 are certain safeguards and protections that we can
- 9 apply based upon the individual respondent that we
- 10 can take, again, whether they're a child or adult.
- 11 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:
- 12 Q. Whether an child or adult. Is there any
- 13 reason why a judge should be more concerned about
- 14 applying these safeguards and policies that we'll
- 15 be discussing for the next few hours in cases
- 16 involving children as a general matter than cases
- 17 involving adults?
- 18 MR. SILVIS: Same objection. Also asked
- 19 and answered.
- 20 A. Due process applies equally in all
- 21 cases. The judges have the same obligation
- 22 regardless of the age of the respondent to make
- 23 sure that the proceeding is fair.
- 24 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:
- 25 Q. So there's no need then for a greater

- concern to ensure that the safequards are followed
- 2 for children than for adults, no need for any
- 3 particular special procedures in cases involving
- 4 children?
- 5 MR. SILVIS: Same objection.
- 6 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:
- 7 Q. Is that your testimony?
- 8 A. No. That's your testimony. My
- 9 testimony is that in every single case, the judge
- 10 has to look at the respondents and the particular
- 11 abilities of the respondent and put in place
- 12 safeguards and protections to make sure that that
- 13 proceeding is fair. And just because somebody
- 14 doesn't fall into a specific category of child or
- adult, detained or not detained, does not mean
- 16 that we don't need to assess that person and make
- 17 sure that their proceeding is fair.
- 18 There are certain categories of safeguards
- and protections that we're going to take in some
- 20 cases and not others. But, again, they vary, and
- 21 you have to look at the individual.
- Q. Besides this, there are a number of
- 23 policies that are specifically focused on children
- 24 that the department has issued; correct?
- 25 A. Correct.

Page 29 1 Ο. Why the focus on children not just in this policy, but in several policies in the 2 quidance that's given to immigration judges? 3 MR. SILVIS: Objection. We're really 4 far off topic now. If you want to answer for yourself, you can do so, but not for DOJ. MR. ARULANANTHAM: You can say that once. You don't need a speaking objection. You say it's off topic. That's fine. It's preserved. 9 Don't waste our time. 10 MR. SILVIS: Why don't we get on topic. 11 We are on topic. MR. ARULANANTHAM: 12 MR. SILVIS: Which topic are we on? 13 MR. ARULANANTHAM: We're on one. 14 MR. SILVIS: Other policies other than 15 the one mentioned here? 16 I'm sorry. I lost the question. 17 Α. BY MR. ARULANANTHAM: 18 There are a number of policies which are 19 20 focused on providing quidance, particularly in cases involving children. My question is why the 21 need for the department to issue policies specific 22 to children? 23 MR. SILVIS: Same objection. Asked and 24

25

answered.

- 1 A. Certain policies authorize judges to
- 2 take additional steps to ensure the fairness, to
- make it clear that the judge and to specify steps,
- 4 specific steps. That doesn't mean that the judge
- 5 cannot take those steps without that guidance, but
- 6 there's specific information that's provided and
- 7 best practices that can be used to protect
- 8 different respondents.
- 9 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:
- Q. And the reason why there are ones that
- 11 focus on children?
- MR. SILVIS: Asked and answered.
- 13 Objection.
- 14 A. To provide guidance in conducting a
- 15 fundamentally fair hearing for children.
- 16 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:
- 17 Q. The next page of it, page 3, it says at
- the end of the paragraph under "Definition of
- 19 Unaccompanied Alien Child, " it says, "The
- 20 regulations define juveniles as an alien under the
- 21 age of 18." Do you see that?
- 22 A. Yes.
- Q. Why do the regulations draw a line at
- 24 18?
- A. I don't know. I didn't draft that. I

- 1 don't know the legislative history behind that.
- Q. So speaking for the department, is it
- 3 the department's view that there's a justification
- 4 for drawing a line at the age of 18 for purposes
- 5 of the regulations?
- 6 MR. SILVIS: Objection. We're off topic
- 7 unless you can identify that in the 30(b)(6).
- 8 MR. ARULANANTHAM: It's in the memo.
- 9 MR. SILVIS: That's true.
- 10 MR. ARULANANTHAM: Just say objection.
- 11 Don't guide the witness. Say objection. Outside
- the scope. Then he answers the question.
- MR. SILVIS: You can answer on behalf of
- 14 yourself, if you can.
- 15 A. I keep losing the questions.
- 16 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:
- 17 Q. The regulations also define juvenile as
- an alien under the age of 18. Then it cites a
- 19 regulation.
- 20 My question is: Is it the position of the
- 21 department that there's a justification for
- 22 drawing a line at age 18?
- 23 MR. SILVIS: Same objection.
- 24 A. The immigration laws with regard to age
- vary. Some points they use 14. Some points they

- 1 use 18. Sometimes they use 21. I don't know why
- 2 they picked the different numbers in different
- 3 sections of the act and regulations, the specific
- 4 numbers that they use.
- 5 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:
- 6 Q. My question is whether in the view of
- 7 the department -- you're a 30(b)(6) witness.
- 8 You're speaking on behalf of the department. The
- 9 department cites a memo that draws the line at 18
- 10 for purposes of this regulation. I'm asking you
- 11 whether there is a rationale in the view of the
- department for drawing that line in this context?
- MR. SILVIS: Same objection.
- 14 A. At the number 18 I don't know the
- 15 answer.
- 16 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:
- 17 Q. Two paragraphs down, both of the next
- 18 paragraphs really, the Department of Homeland
- 19 Security Act of 2002 talks about unaccompanied
- 20 alien child. That definition also is tied to the
- 21 age of 18 years. Is that your understanding?
- 22 A. Yes.
- Q. Do you know what the rationale is for
- 24 that?
- MR. SILVIS: Same objection.

- 1 A. Again, I did not draft the legislation.
- 2 I don't know the legislative history as to why
- 3 they selected 18.
- 4 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:
- 5 Q. This memo, do you know what age cut-off
- 6 this memo uses?
- 7 A. Practices and procedures in this memo
- 8 can apply to any child. It's not age specific.
- 9 Q. Well, you're a child, aren't you? You
- 10 have parents?
- 11 A. (Nodding.)
- 12 Q. So what do you mean by that? There must
- be some age that this is by reference to, isn't
- 14 there?
- 15 MR. SILVIS: Objection. That's
- 16 argumentative.
- 17 A. The memo provides recommendations that
- 18 judges are free to adopt in addition to regular
- 19 practices to make sure the hearing is fair for
- 20 respondents.
- 21 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:
- Q. So you don't read this memo as applying
- 23 to any age range. It could apply to people in
- 24 their '40s and 50s?
- 25 A. These are best practices. I don't see

- any reason that you cannot adopt these practices
- 2 to make sure the hearings are fair for others.
- Q. That wasn't my question. My question
- 4 was: Do you read the memo as being focused on any
- 5 particular age group?
- 6 A. Yes. Obviously the memo in its title is
- 7 guidelines for cases of unaccompanied alien
- 8 children.
- 9 Q. What age group do you think that refers
- 10 to when it uses the word children, what age group?
- 11 A. The statute sets it at 18.
- Q. But the memo mentioned that statute, but
- it also mentions other definitions. Like you
- 14 said, in some contexts it can be 21. In some
- 15 contexts the word minor is used for 14. But the
- 16 memo is not only about the statute. It's about
- 17 procedures that are applicable to children in
- 18 immigration cases; correct?
- 19 A. Correct.
- Q. What age range is the memo speaking to
- 21 in that context?
- MR. SILVIS: Objection. Asked and
- 23 answered.
- A. The number is not what's important here.

25

Page 35 1 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM: That's not my question. My question is Ο. what age range does the memo speak to? MR. SILVIS: Same objection. 4 Α. Children. BY MR. ARULANANTHAM: Without any age range? Ο. The memo applies across the board to Α. children. When you say to children what are you 10 Q. referring to? Are you referring to an age range, 11 or do you just mean people born of parents? 12 MR. SILVIS: Are you asking him 13 personally or the department? 14 MR. ARULANANTHAM: He said it applies to 15 children. I'm asking what did he mean by the word 16 children. 17 I mean generically people who are young 18 without regard to a specific numeric cut-off date. 19 20 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM: So you think this memo applies to people 21 22 who are young, but isn't meant to impose any particular age range; is that right? 23 24 MR. SILVIS: Objection. Asked and answered. 25

- 1 A. In my reading of it, that's not the
- 2 purpose nor the intent of it. It is to make sure
- 3 young people in immigration proceedings,
- 4 regardless of a specific numerical cut-off,
- 5 receive a fair hearing, and it makes
- 6 recommendations to make sure that those people get
- 7 a fair hearing.
- 8 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:
- 9 Q. When you train immigration judges, you
- train on procedures that should be applied to
- 11 cases involving children including on this memo
- and some of the other topics that are here;
- 13 correct?
- 14 A. It was a compound question.
- Q. I'll rephrase it. You train immigration
- judges about how to proceed in cases involving
- 17 children; right?
- 18 A. I have participated in training
- 19 regarding handling cases of children.
- Q. When you do that, do you talk about a
- 21 particular age range that immigration judges
- 22 should use when dealing with cases involving
- 23 children?
- A. I try to avoid doing that for this
- 25 reason: there are so many labels that have been

Page 37 put onto children. You have some people refer to 1 them as juveniles. Some refer to them as unaccompanied alien children, and there have been adults with children, that I think the general category -- and when we did the training for the 5 judges on juveniles, we said this relates to children because you don't want to cut them off because a certain statute or regulation or memo or practice calls them juveniles once and 9 unaccompanied alien children. 10 As I mentioned, they're all young people who 11 find themselves in immigration proceedings. 12 13 fact that one memo says 18 or another one says juvenile doesn't mean that the importance of this 14 memo, which is what can a judge do to make sure 15 that the proceeding is fair, should be barred or 16 not applied because of a specific number was put 17 in a regulation or somebody chose to call them 18 juveniles and didn't call them unaccompanied 19 children. 20 So the memo here, does it apply only to 21 unaccompanied alien children? 22 23 Α. No. You would say --24 Ο. This 25 Α. As far as the practice is.

- 1 applies, I think, to represented the children as
- 2 well.
- 3 Q. So you would say the need for the
- 4 safeguards that are talked about in this memo
- 5 would be present whether or not the child has a
- 6 lawyer, whether or not the child has a custodian
- or adult, other persons standing next to, them
- 8 regardless, the need for heightened safequards
- 9 because they're children should be present; is
- 10 that correct?
- MR. SILVIS: I'll object to the scope.
- 12 It's off topic.
- A. On a case-by-case basis, you're going to
- 14 consider each child, each child's situation and
- determine which one is here. What is important is
- not the preamble or the specific definition, but
- 17 actually what judges can do to make sure that the
- 18 proceeding is fair.
- 19 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:
- Q. So the fact that the child may be there
- 21 with another adult would not obviate the need for
- 22 the judge to pay special care to this case because
- 23 it involved a child; is that correct?
- MR. SILVIS: Same objection.
- 25 A. They would be able to consider the

Page 39 1 recommendations here and determine whether the recommendations here are a safeguard or protection, and we would not deny their ability to use that tool just because somebody didn't meet a definition in the preamble. BY MR. ARULANANTHAM: Under C. on page four -- actually before Ο. we get there, at the very top of of page 4, the very first full sentence, it says, "An immigration judge should decide on a case-by-case basis 10 whether special attention is required." 11 Do you see that sentence? 12 13 Α. Yes. So none of the practices outlined in 14 this memo are mandatory, is that correct, on 15 16 immigration judges I mean? They would all be weighed against due 17 Α. process needs. 18 In your supervisory capacity, do you 19 Q. 20 track whether immigration judges use these different procedures outlined in this memo in 21 cases involving children? 22 In my supervisory capacity of? 2.3 Α. 24 Of immigration judges. Q. I only supervise judges in Pennsylvania. 25

1 Q. In your capacity as the assistant chief immigration judge of vulnerable populations, do 3 you track the extent to which immigration judges use the procedure described in this memo in cases involving children? Α. We meet with a lot of stakeholders. when you say track, we do take efforts to make sure that the judges are conducting fair hearings, and if somebody thought a judge was not doing 9 10 something like this, they very well could bring it to my attention. They can file a complaint. 11 12 may come up in an appeal to the Board of 13 Immigration Appeals and to the Circuit. 14 As far as track, if we're meaning am I 15 reading the cases and sitting in the courtrooms 16 with them, no. But do I try to stay aware of 17 training needs of judges? Yes. 18 Q. If a judge didn't undertake one of the practices described in this memo in cases 19 20 involving children, that would not be a violation 21 of any rule because the practices outlined in this 22 memo are discretionary guidelines, not mandatory 23 requirements for judges; is that correct? 24 Α. The judges have found that some of the recommendations -- in most of the memos we're 25

- going to be discussing today, there's always a due
- 2 process category. This is the guidance. But due
- 3 process is important. What judges have found in
- 4 applying some of these is that some worked better
- 5 than others and some do not.
- A specific example is the removal of the
- 7 robe. The idea I think when this memo was drafted
- 8 was that if a child is in court and a judge is
- 9 wearing a robe, it might be intimidating. And we
- 10 had a rule that said you had to wear a black robe.
- 11 So the idea was if you take off the robe, it may
- 12 be less intimidating for the child. This doesn't
- 13 say you must remove your robe. But it gives you
- 14 the authority to do that.
- In speaking with immigration judges and from
- our experience, the judges actually found removing
- 17 the robe doesn't help the fairness of the
- 18 proceeding, doesn't make the child more
- 19 comfortable and that actually having the robe does
- two things, one, it shows it's a solemn important
- 21 proceeding which will then allow the child -- send
- 22 the message you need to show up for court. We're
- 23 doing important things.
- But they also found wearing the black robe in
- 25 the cases of children sets them apart from other

- actors in the courtroom and that it distinguishes
- 2 the judge from others and it's less confusing
- 3 because it identifies this is the person, this is
- 4 the person that's in charge. So the judges found
- 5 actually it makes the hearing fairer or it's a
- 6 better practice to leave the robe on.
- 7 So that's also an example of how when this
- 8 was drafted in 2007, it was the best intent that
- 9 that be something that would really -- judges
- 10 could do. And I think the idea, the notion was
- 11 that judges could step off the bench and this
- would be much more child friendly when actually we
- found that not to be the case. So if the judge
- 14 does not take off the robe and that's their
- rationale for doing it, no, we're not going to
- 16 take action against the judge or say you're
- violating because they're doing it with the intent
- 18 of making the proceeding fair.
- 19 Q. I take it there must be other practices
- 20 described in this memo you still believe are
- 21 useful to ensure proceedings for children remain
- 22 fair?
- 23 A. Definitely.
- Q. Can you give me an example of one?
- 25 A. I think talking to the children in plain

- 1 language, giving breaks, letting somebody sit with
- 2 the child -- I don't know that this is really
- 3 being done, but the ability to bring in a toy.
- 4 There's a number of things.
- 5 So I think what this does it gives you a
- cafeteria, it gives you a laundry list of things
- 7 that you can do that maybe you thought of or
- 8 didn't think of and puts it out there for your
- 9 consideration. I think the sentence that you
- 10 cited really supports you should on a case-by-case
- 11 basis assess that child and decide for this child
- 12 robe on/robe off.
- O. If a judge didn't allow or utilize some
- of the procedures that you're talking about,
- 15 didn't allow a toy, didn't allow an adult to sit
- with the child or one of these other procedures,
- even in a case where you or another judge might
- 18 have done that because they might have thought it
- 19 appropriate to ensure the proceedings are fair, is
- 20 there any consequence that would flow to the judge
- 21 for declining to use one of those procedures?
- MR. SILVIS: Objection. Asked and
- 23 answered.
- 24 A. You have to look at the specific case as
- 25 to what was used and what was not used. It's not

- 1 that all of these must be used or a certain set of
- these or a certain number. It's not a pass/fail.
- 3 If I saw a judge was not using a particular one, I
- 4 would inquire as to why and what they thought the
- 5 impact -- like I said, for example, the robe that
- 6 I gave.
- 7 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:
- 8 Q. Have you ever done that where it wasn't
- 9 like the robe, but where you thought it would make
- 10 a difference and have you ever inquired as to why
- 11 a judge is not using such a procedure?
- 12 A. Not that I recall right now, but I want
- to put a caveat with regard to recollection.
- Q. If you look at paragraph C.
- 15 A. Can I have a moment to think about that
- 16 last?
- 17 Q. You can flag it and come back to it or I
- 18 can ask you later.
- 19 A. The reason I want to say is because we
- do provide recommendations on best practices.
- 21 What I don't recall right now is whether it's in
- 22 response to the fact of hearing that one of these
- was not followed or just because we want to
- 24 promote best practices.
- Q. Look at the paragraph C., the second

- 1 sentence.
- A. I'm sorry. One other. Also, we do
- 3 train generally, which would include training
- 4 regardless of whether someone is doing the
- 5 practice or not, that would refresh as well
- 6 regardless of the specific...
- 7 Q. Paragraph C., second sentence,
- 8 "Immigration judges should encourage the use of
- 9 appropriate pro bono resources whenever a child
- 10 respondent is not represented."
- Is that still the position of the department?
- 12 A. Judges should incur pro bono
- 13 representation for all respondents, and that's why
- we have pro bono liaison judges in all of our
- 15 courts.
- 16 O. There's nothing special about children's
- 17 cases that there should be greater attempts to
- 18 find pro bono resources for children than for
- 19 adults; is that right?
- 20 MR. SILVIS: Object to the scope.
- 21 A. Judges in all cases should encourage the
- 22 use of appropriate pro bono resources. It does
- 23 say whenever a child is represented. That's a
- 24 perfect example of the fact that the courts want
- 25 to encourage for all respondents pro bono.

- 1 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:
- Q. My question though was whether there is
- 3 anything specific, any particular quidance to
- 4 judges to encourage pro bono in cases involving
- 5 children. I can't tell from your answer if the
- 6 answer to that is no. You said there is quidance
- 7 as to all people, the judges should try to find
- 8 pro bono for all people, unrepresented people. So
- 9 there's no particular emphasis or directive on
- judges attempting to find pro bono representation
- 11 for pro se children as opposed to any other pro se
- 12 person; is that right?
- MR. SILVIS: Object to the form.
- A. I'm not finding anything specifically
- 15 about the fact that the child -- that the
- 16 respondent is a child that would make it more
- important that we look for a pro bono
- 18 representative or we should not encourage that any
- more than we should for an adult. The goal for
- 20 both -- just like the sentence above it, where a
- 21 list of pro bono services is available, the judge
- should provide it to the child, well, the judge
- 23 should provide it also to the adult.
- 24 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:
- Q. There's nothing about the fact you're a

- 1 child that makes you more than in need of pro bono
- 2 representation than an adult?
- 3 A. You're going to look at the individual
- 4 circumstance of the respondent.
- 5 Q. That's not what I asked. I asked,
- 6 there's nothing about the fact someone is a
- 7 child -- nothing else. You haven't yet looked at
- 8 anything else. All you know is this person is a
- 9 child and that person is an adult. There's
- 10 nothing about the fact they're a child that makes
- them more in need of pro bono representation than
- 12 an adult; is that correct?
- MR. SILVIS: Object on the topic.
- 14 Outside the scope.
- 15 MR. ARULANANTHAM: I'm asking if that's
- the position of the department in response to this
- 17 sentence.
- 18 MR. SILVIS: Same objection.
- 19 A. I think the fact that the respondent is
- 20 a child is going to make you inquire regarding
- 21 what that child is able to do or not able to do,
- 22 and that is going to educate your decision
- 23 regarding pro bono representation.
- 24 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:
- Q. Is that not also true of adults?

- 1 A. It is true of adults.
- Q. So what you said, the fact that the
- 3 person is a child, would make you want to inquire
- 4 further? Why? Whether or not they're a child,
- 5 you have to inquire; isn't that true?
- 6 A. Whether or not they're a child --
- 7 because what I'm saying and I've been saying is
- 8 that all respondents are capable of performing at
- 9 different levels and for all respondents, we're
- 10 going to take certain actions to make sure that
- 11 the hearing is fair. And my personal opinion --
- 12 Q. I'm asking you in your capacity as
- 13 30(b)(6) witness.
- A. In my capacity as a 30(b)(6) witness,
- you are attempting to get me to categorize or put
- 16 people into certain boxes on a continuum of
- 17 functions that I'm not comfortable with and that I
- don't think is consistent with what we're training
- 19 judges on. And so to say it's more important for
- this box than that box I don't think is correct.
- Q. So as you would train judges, you would
- 22 not train judges to be more concerned about pro
- 23 bono representation for children than for adults.
- 24 They should be equally concerned about pro bono
- 25 representation in all the cases involving

Page 49 unrepresented people? 1 We're going to consider it on a 2 case-by-case basis, and there are certain characteristics that are going to make us look at certain people detained, as an example, because people who are detained may have not the community support that others have. So there are certain common characteristics R that children or detainees or adults may have that may as a stereotypical matter make you look into 10 11 things, but what is the real focus is on the 12 individual ability to function. And so they're all --13 As you're aware from the Franco, there are 14 15 certain indicia or indicators that may turn out to be accurate or not. So what you're going to look 16 at is indicators that somebody may not be able to 17 perform functions and investigate it. 18 MR. SILVIS: Are you finished with your 19 20 answer? 21 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM: You would train judges to look for those 22 Ο. indicators, and it's the department's position the 23 judges should be trained to look for those

indicators in all cases, not especially children

24

25

- in every case; is that correct?
- 2 A. Correct.
- Q. The next two sentences down, it says,
- 4 "Although there is no independent court role for a
- 5 personal representative or quardian ad litem,"
- 6 then it goes on.
- What do you understand those two terms to
- 8 mean? What's a personal representative in this
- 9 context? Let's start there. What's a personal
- 10 representative in this context?
- 11 A. I have absolutely no idea. Again, I
- think that's a suggestion of the immaturity or I
- should say we had less experience when this was
- 14 drafted.
- 15 Q. You're talking about the immaturity of
- 16 the agency?
- 17 A. The lack of experience what a personal
- 18 representative, I think it's ambiguous. I'm not
- 19 sure what was meant. And I think that's why I say
- 20 we're trying to pick apart words that I don't know
- 21 today would be used the same because I think we
- 22 have a better understanding and a lot more
- 23 experience.
- What the drafter meant when they said there's
- 25 no independent court role for a personal

- 1 representative, I'm not sure which who they were
- 2 envisioning as a personal representative in this.
- Q. If you were writing this today to update
- 4 to reflect the department's current view, what's
- 5 the word you would use to refer to -- to
- 6 substitute for personal representative?
- 7 MR. SILVIS: Object to the question, not
- 8 within the topics that were designated.
- 9 A. I would actually leave out the sentence
- 10 because I don't think it adds anything there.
- 11 Immigration judges do not have the authority to
- 12 appoint quardians ad litem. We don't have the
- 13 legal authority to do it. So I don't even know
- 14 why that's even being discussed in the memo.
- 15 Again, I'd look at the intent or what they
- 16 intended, maybe draft it clearer, but I don't
- 17 think I would put it in here. And what they mean
- 18 by independent court role, I'm not sure what that
- 19 means. I can't appoint a guardian ad litem
- 20 saying -- it's not something I would probably put
- in or figure out what I meant and then clarify it.
- 22 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:
- Q. At the bottom of that page, paragraph
- 24 E., it makes a reference to training. OCIJ has
- 25 provided training to immigration judges on some of

- 1 these issues. And what it's talking about above
- 2 is various issues involving children.
- $A. \quad Um-hum.$
- 4 Q. Is there child respondent specific
- 5 training at EOIR?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. Which judges get that?
- 8 A. Most recently it was the judges that are
- 9 presiding -- that have a significant -- we've
- 10 established juvenile dockets at the courts, and
- it's the judges that are spending a significant
- 12 portion of their time adjudicating or presiding
- 13 over those juvenile dockets.
- MR. SILVIS: You have to let him finish.
- THE WITNESS: This time it's my fault.
- 16 I took a long pause.
- 17 A. So that was mandatory for the judges in
- 18 April of 2015. What we did was we provided it
- again at the legal training conference in 2015.
- 20 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:
- Q. Was there child specific training
- 22 produced for judges prior to 2015?
- A. Yes, yes.
- Q. Do you know when that started?
- A. I took over in 2009. That's when I

- 1 first was involved in identifying and organizing
- 2 training. I know that I did have specific child
- 3 topics in those trainings.
- 4 O. Are there what you called children's
- 5 dockets is the word you used?
- 6 A. Juvenile dockets.
- 7 O. Are there juvenile dockets in every
- 8 location where there are cases involving children?
- 9 A. There have been arrangements for
- juvenile dockets in every location. Some courts
- 11 just don't have juveniles on the docket. So as
- ironic as it sounds, in an adult male detention
- facility where we do not see children and there's
- 14 criminals, we still have made arrangements for a
- juvenile docket, but they don't see children.
- Q. Are judges trained to identify a child
- 17 respondent when a person appears in court?
- 18 A. The notices to appear are marked from
- 19 DHS, and then judges may ask about the age of the
- 20 child or there will be documents indicating age.
- Q. They're marked as UC for unaccompanied
- 22 child?
- 23 A. Unaccompanied child is marked UC.
- Q. Is there some other marking for other
- 25 children?

- 1 A. There are different codes for adults
- 2 with children.
- Q. Do those codes cover the universe of
- 4 possibilities for children being in immigration
- 5 court?
- 6 A. No, no.
- 7 Q. So for a child where the NTA doesn't
- 8 have a specific marking, how would the judge know
- 9 that the respondent before them is a child?
- 10 A. As far as -- I mean, we're talking --
- there's certain obvious common sense things that
- 12 you can recognize in a child. I think where we're
- 13 looking is -- are we talking about the issue
- 14 where -- well, you're asking the questions, not
- 15 I -- where it's not clear whether someone is a
- 16 child?
- They're put on the juvenile dockets. They
- may be brought in by the shelter. I think mostly
- 19 those determinations are made in advance. But
- 20 there's nothing that in the course of the
- 21 proceeding, that if an immigration judge has a
- 22 question regarding age, that they can't inquire.
- Q. Similarly, I see there's no requirement
- that the immigration judge on a nonjuvenile docket
- 25 take steps to determine whether the person in

- front of them is a child or not; correct?
- A. Well, the juvenile dockets are for
- generally children by themselves, not a child with
- 4 an adult where the parent is a lead.
- 5 Q. Is it a child by themselves or only
- 6 unaccompanied child, a UC designated child?
- 7 A. I'm not sure. I believe it's any child.
- 8 I don't believe it has to be a UC designation.
- 9 Q. So if they were a child --
- 10 A. There's so many codes and categories.
- 11 So I'm not the strongest on the exact -- which
- 12 codes apply in which cases.
- O. But there should not be, if I understand
- what you're saying correctly, any children unless
- they're in a consolidated proceeding with their
- 16 parent in the same proceeding -- leave them
- 17 aside -- there shouldn't be any children on
- dockets other than juvenile dockets; is that
- 19 right?
- 20 A. It could happen that a child could show
- 21 up on an adult docket. I mean, it would be very
- 22 rare. There could be circumstances and maybe have
- to be rescheduled for the appropriate docket, if
- 24 it was necessary, to protect the child.
- Q. So any child should be transferred,

- 1 essentially their case should be transferred to a
- juvenile docket, is that what you mean?
- 3 I'm trying to figure out what you mean by
- 4 rescheduled. Do you mean transferred to a
- 5 juvenile docket or do you mean something else?
- A. The juvenile dockets are set up to
- 7 address the juvenile cases. Obviously that's our
- 8 goal. It is possible that if a child ended up on
- 9 an adult docket, the judge would, in essence, do
- 10 the case by itself or take appropriate measures.
- 11 I can't say for sure. I think they would -- I
- 12 can't say for sure I suspect you could find a
- child on an adult, but I think the judge would
- 14 take the steps to make sure the case is treated as
- a juvenile docket case even if it shows up on the
- 16 adult docket.
- 17 Q. That judge might not have been trained
- on juvenile docket practices because the juvenile
- docket trainings are only for judges who handle
- 20 juvenile dockets; is that right?
- A. No, no. The one we specifically brought
- them in most recently were for judges that aren't
- on those juvenile dockets. There's other
- 24 trainings. The 2015 conference was available and
- some of the trainings that were mandatory were for

- all judges, not just those who handle juvenile
- 2 dockets.
- 3 Q. So every judge in the August 2015
- training, all the immigration judges in the entire
- 5 system were trained on child specific practices?
- 6 A. No. It was offered as a course. For
- 7 example, when I did my docket, I didn't see any
- 8 children. So I'm not going to going sit in that
- 9 particular training. I'm going to attend one that
- 10 fits the type of cases and dockets.
- 11 Q. Do you have any data or evidence as to
- the prevalence of children's case that are not on
- 13 the juvenile dockets?
- 14 A. Only from when I spoke to the judges.
- 15 It's very, very rare. They said it's really an
- 16 exceptional circumstance that that would happen.
- 17 Q. The judges you spoke to are judges that
- are handling the juvenile docket; correct?
- 19 A. Correct. It's not commonplace.
- 20 O. I'm going to hand you what we will mark
- 21 as Exhibit 12. It's page EOIR254. It's an email
- from you to a number of people starting with Juan
- Osuna, Ana Kocur. It says, "Attached is final
- 24 copy of the agenda for the April 23-24
- 25 training..."

Page 58 And then behind that there are a number of 1 pages which include in them an agenda for 3 training. Do you see that? Α. Yes. (Exhibit 12 was marked.) BY MR. ARULANANTHAM: 0. You spoke at this training; correct? Α. Correct. 9 0. Is this the training that was for judges who are handling juvenile docket? 10 11 Α. Correct. 12 On Thursday -- this is on EOIR257 -- the second session is Children Are Not Little Adults: 13 14 Child Development and Functionality. Do you see 15 that? 16 Α. Yes. 17 Did you attend that? 18 I did. Α. 19 Q. What was said by Dr. Mack at that 20 training? 21 In a very general summary, what it did 22 is it tracked children from the time of birth up 23 through adulthood and tracked the development of the child. 2.4 25 Q. When you say tracked, did it the discuss

Page 59 the different capacities that children have at 1 different ages? 2 Α. Yes. Do you remember what age was considered Ο. adulthood in the context of the presentation? 5 I don't remember that being specified. Α. What did it say about children's Ο. capacity and functionality relative to adults? 8 Α. What it did is it tracked that as a 9 child got older. It talked about verbal 10 communication. It talked about different 11 12 cognitive abilities, the way the children react, their perceptions at different ages. 13 really a continuum of how people develop into 14 15 adulthood. Was the description broken down even by 16 Ο. blocks of ages, by infancy, early childhood, 17 adolescent, or no? 18 I think the continuum was there. 19 don't recall exactly how it was -- what labels 20 were put on the different stages, whether it was a 21 continuous continuum or whether it broke into 22 segments. I'd have to look back at his slides. 23 This was a PowerPoint? Ο. 24 25 Α. This was a PowerPoint.

- Q. There's another one at 2:30 where you
- were on the panel called Decidedly Different:
- 3 Presiding Over Proceedings Involving Children.
- A. Yes.
- 5 Q. What was the content of that
- 6 presentation?
- 7 A. I was afraid you were going to ask me
- 8 that because I don't recall specifically what was
- 9 covered at that presentation. I'd have to look
- 10 at. I don't even know if I have speaking notes at
- 11 this point.
- 12 Q. Do you recall what you presented?
- 13 A. I don't recall whether I was the
- 14 moderator or presenter. Some of the people listed
- 15 may have been moderators. I thought about that
- 16 because I expected you were going to ask that.
- 17 Unfortunately, I just can't recall.
- Q. There's the second session of the same
- one. It's on the next day at 11:00. Do you
- 20 remember that?
- 21 A. I remember the session and I remember
- 22 hearing them speak generally I think probably
- 23 because I was in charge of the administration of
- 24 the whole program. I honestly don't recall having
- any notes of the presentation. I don't even

- 1 recall today whether I was the moderator.
- O. And no recollection as to the contents
- of the presentations by anyone, either by you or
- 4 the other speakers?
- 5 A. I recall generally Maria Woltjen spoke
- 6 about child advocates, and Jennifer Nagda also
- 7 spoke about child advocates, which is why the
- 8 title is Decidedly Different, because child
- 9 advocates don't exist in the adult process. As a
- 10 total resource, it just doesn't exist there.
- 11 I remember Steve talked about -- Steven Lang
- 12 spoke about representation and what resources are
- available for representation. He spoke about the
- 14 LOPC program. I'm sure Frank Travieso spoke about
- 15 handling the juvenile dockets. I have general
- 16 recollection of why they were on the panel. I
- don't remember what Rene Cutlip-Mason spoke about.
- 18 Q. You don't remember what you spoke about?
- 19 A. I don't, which is unusual for me, but
- 20 honestly I don't.
- Q. MaryBeth Keller on the first one, do you
- 22 remember what she spoke about?
- 23 A. In preparing and looking at the
- 24 documents, I don't even know why she was on the
- 25 agenda for that topic. She is the ACIJ for

- 1 conduct and professionalism, and that was not the
- 2 topic here. And I have no idea why -- the
- 3 embarrassing thing about that is because I was the
- 4 one who invited her, and I don't know what I asked
- 5 her to speak about or why I put her on the agenda.
- Q. You are not listed on the speakers, but
- 7 did you attend that?
- 8 A. I'm sorry?
- 9 Q. Friday at 9:00.
- 10 A. I did attend that.
- 11 Q. Do you remember what was discussed on
- 12 that panel?
- 13 A. The availability of resources to assist
- in the representation of children. And the reason
- 15 I actually came up with the title Representation
- of Children and their Interests is because it was
- designed not to just cover legal representation
- and what pro bono -- legal representation or
- 19 representation resources were available. But it
- 20 was also covered to talk about representation of
- 21 interests, such as the best interest
- 22 determinations of children.
- But also we get -- we were getting a lot of
- 24 concern over abused children, trafficked children.
- 25 So it was also to cover representation of those

- 1 interests as well. It was kind of protection
- 2 topics, trafficking topics.
- Q. Recognizing that your memory of those
- three is fuzzy, do you recall any discussion in
- 5 any of them about whether judges should handle
- 6 cases involving children differently and, if so,
- 7 how?
- 8 A. So in the representation of children and
- 9 their interests, this one was designed to identify
- 10 what pro bono resources were available and what
- 11 representation resources were available. It was
- designed to cover what child advocate resources
- 13 were available to cover bests interests.
- 14 It was also designed to basically give an
- idea, for lack of a better word, a cafeteria
- 16 approach of what is out there and who is out there
- in the community that focuses their work on
- 18 children's cases.
- 19 Q. So what about what judges should do
- 20 differently, was there any discussion of that on
- 21 these panels that you can recall?
- 22 A. The reason I put this one together was I
- 23 wanted the judges to know what is in their
- 24 toolbox.
- Q. I'm not just talking about that one.

- 1 I'm talking about decidedly different. It may be
- 2 confusing. Even if you include the two decidedly
- 3 different ones -- let's talk about those. Was
- 4 there any discussion in there, in those panels,
- 5 about what judges should do differently?
- 6 A. I mean, in the sense that I see child
- 7 advocates is in there, so obviously that's
- 8 something judges are going to do differently.
- 9 Q. What else?
- 10 A. I think Frank Travieso spoke largely
- about best practices in handling the cases, many
- of the recommendations that were in the OPPM
- 13 07-01, things that he was doing in his court to
- ensure the fairness, probably kind of a practical
- 15 experience.
- Q. Do you recall if the OPPM 07-01 was
- 17 discussed?
- A. I believe it was, but I can't say with
- 19 absolute certainty.
- Q. So they're still training on the
- 21 contents of 07-01 in April 2015; is that right?
- A. Yeah. 07-01 is still in place, and I
- 23 think what's being trained on is the techniques.
- 24 And really the idea is to pull together all of the
- 25 tools and resources and information that a judge

- 1 can use to assess in an individual case what is
- 2 available to me.
- 3 So Steve would talk, for example, about
- 4 justice AmeriCorps so that judges knew do I have a
- 5 respondent that that does cover or would know if
- 6 they want to consider whether a child advocate is
- 7 appropriate, what is a child advocate, how do I
- 8 get a child advocate, what is a difference between
- 9 child advocate and a legal advocate.
- 10 That's really what the discussions were, what
- is available that you can use. In addition to
- 12 07-01 is some things, and you can reach out to
- them to make sure the hearing is fair.
- 14 O. The one from the morning on Friday
- 15 Proceed or Not To Proceed: In Absentia,
- 16 Continuances and Administrative Closure. You were
- 17 listed as one of the presenters on that.
- 18 A. Um-hum.
- 19 Q. Do you remember what that panel was
- 20 about?
- 21 A. Yeah. It looked at whether to -- if a
- 22 child doesn't show up, whether to proceed in the
- 23 child's absence if DHS made a request to proceed
- 24 in absentia.
- Q. Can you tell me what the content of the

- 1 training was in that regard?
- 2 A. Yes. That one I do remember. We
- 3 covered the requirements for proceeding in
- 4 absentia. We covered verifying the notice to
- 5 appear was served on the child, verifying that the
- 6 notice of the hearing was correct and accurate,
- 7 whether there were circumstances to explain why
- 8 the child did not show up. We looked at the
- 9 requirement of that even if the child did not show
- 10 up and the judge did proceed to go in the case,
- the DHS had the burden of proving the allegations
- 12 and charges. It's not just don't show up and go
- 13 forward.
- Q. You mean by that that the DHS has to
- prove that before the absentia order is entered?
- 16 A. Right. There's no default judgment,
- 17 right. There's still a burden of proof that needs
- 18 to be established in the case.
- 19 O. The audience of this would have been
- 20 judges?
- A. With juvenile dockets.
- Q. Did you also discuss service issues?
- 23 A. Yes.
- Q. What was discussed about that?
- A. We talked about the requirements, the

- 1 recent case regarding -- it's not so recent
- 2 anymore -- regarding proper service on a child.
- 3 O. What case was that?
- A. I don't remember the name. It's a Board
- of Immigration Appeals. Let me go back. That's
- 6 not correct. I'm confusing with the case on
- 7 service of mental competence.
- 8 Q. Is it Cougar Cruz?
- 9 A. I'm really bad. As long as I've been
- 10 doing immigration cases, I'm not good at
- 11 remembering the names. I can get the law right
- 12 which is important.
- We talked about making sure the child was
- 14 served with the notice to appear because it's
- important the child be aware of the allegations
- 16 and the charges.
- 17 O. Do you also train on a requirement that
- 18 the EOIR custodian receive service?
- 19 A. A requirement? Am I training that ORR
- 20 must receive service of the notice?
- Q. In any cases, yes.
- 22 A. No. I don't train that ORR must receive
- 23 service.
- 24 O. I take it the ORR custodian is required
- 25 to receive service?

- MR. SILVIS: Is this a training issue?
- 2 I want clarification on the question. Are we
- 3 still talking about training or just talking about
- 4 DOJ broader?
- 5 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:
- 6 Q. You can answer the question if you
- 7 understand it.
- 8 MR. SILVIS: We'll just object, outside
- 9 of the topic. So answer for yourself.
- 10 A. I am aware that DHS does serve in some
- cases the notice to appear on ORR.
- 12 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:
- Q. But you don't train that that's ever a
- 14 requirement; is that right?
- 15 A. No. I don't train that you must serve a
- 16 child's notice to appear on ORR.
- 17 Q. That's because it is your understanding
- 18 that there is no such requirement; is that
- 19 correct?
- MR. SILVIS: Same objection.
- A. My training is that you have to have
- real service notice, that a person must be aware
- of the allegations and charges against them. And
- 24 so if ORR, for example, was served with a notice
- 25 to appear and the child does not recall receiving

- it or the child did not recall getting it, that's
- what our training would be concerned.
- So I would not teach that you must serve ORR.
- 4 What I'm concerned is that the child is getting
- 5 proper service, do they really know what is going
- on, what the proceeding is about.
- 7 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:
- Q. Do you train that's the rule regardless
- 9 of the age of the child?
- 10 A. All respondents, yes. I think all
- 11 respondents for a fundamentally fair hearing need
- 12 to be advised of the allegations and the charges
- 13 that are pending against them. The way we do that
- is by serving a notice to appear, but then there's
- 15 also the legal requirement in the regulations that
- the judge must explain the allegations in plain
- 17 language that the respondent can understand.
- 18 O. It must be true that there's some
- 19 children that are so young that even if they
- 20 receive the notice and even if they're given an
- 21 explanation by the judge, they're still not going
- 22 to understand what's going on; right?
- A. I have to do a case-by-case basis
- 24 determination. I've taught immigration law
- literally to three year olds and four year olds.

- 1 It takes a lot of time. It takes a lot of
- 2 patience. They get it. It's not the most
- 3 efficient, but it can be done.
- 4 Q. I understand that you think it can be
- 5 done. Are you aware of any experts in child
- 6 psychology or comparable experts who agree with
- 7 the assessment that three and four year olds can
- 8 be taught immigration law?
- 9 A. I haven't read any studies one way or
- 10 another.
- 11 Q. What about like a one year old?
- 12 A. I mean, I think there's a point that
- there has to be communication. There has to be
- 14 communication at some point.
- Q. So what do you train judges as to cases
- in which communication is impossible because the
- 17 child is too young?
- A. What we train is if a respondent, child
- or adult, cannot perform functions necessary for
- the hearing to be fair, the judge should not
- 21 proceed.
- Q. That's true regardless of whether
- there's some other individual who may be able to
- 24 understand the proceeding?
- 25 A. What is required at that point is

safequards and protections. So if the respondent 7 is not able to perform a function required in the proceeding, if the judge cannot find a safeguard or protection that's available to make sure the hearing is fair, then the judge -- we tell them 5 not to proceed. We don't tell them how not to proceed. In other words, I don't say continue the case or admin close the case or terminate the case. 9 we teach them to do is basically state that due to 10 these issues, I do not believe that the respondent 11 can perform functions needed for the hearing to be 12 fair. I've evaluated safequards and protections. 13 And either state that the safeguard and protection 14 is adequate, or if the judge feels it's not 15 adequate, just state so and explain what 16 safeguards and protections were considered and why 17 they believe that even with that safeguard or 18 protection, the proceeding is not fair. 19 The reason partly we did it this way is 20 because when the judges were administratively 21 closing or terminating the cases for these reasons 22 and the case went back went up to the Board of 23

Immigration Appeals, it came back on a remand

saying the judge failed to explain what safeguards

24

25

- and protections were considered and why the judge
- 2 concluded they were inadequate. It's kind of a
- 3 multiple step analysis.
- 4 Q. Do you know what case you're talking
- 5 about, the name or date, that went up to the Board
- 6 and came back on a remand? You're talking about a
- 7 case involving a child; right?
- 8 A. No. I'm talking about the mental
- 9 competency context that when the judges failed to
- 10 articulate the safeguards and protections, it came
- 11 back. In the case of a child, I'm sure the same
- 12 thing is going to happen. You can't just make a
- 13 statement I'm terminating because I don't think it
- 14 can be fair. The Board is going to require you to
- go through that extra step of considering
- 16 safeguards and protections.
- 17 Q. I want to come back to this issue of
- 18 proceeding with safeguards. I was originally
- 19 asking in the context of service. I wanted to tie
- 20 the issue up on that. Imagine a case where a
- 21 child, even though they received service, they
- 22 still are not capable of understanding or
- 23 recalling sufficiently for the service to be
- 24 effective.
- In a case like that, can service on the ORR

Page 73 or ORR custodian satisfy the service rules? 1 MR. SILVIS: I'll object to the scope. It's outside the topics. 3 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM: I'm asking that question in the context 5 of how you train. Will service on ORR --Α. 0. They're the custodian. 8 Can you repeat it again. 9 Α. (The record was read back.) 10 MR. SILVIS: Same objection. 11 There's two parts of the question, 12 Α. service on ORR or the ORR custodian. So I think 13 there's custodians and there's custodians. 14 not sure that service on all custodians in my mind 15 or for training purposes as an immigration 16 judge -- I think it would depend on the custodian 17 and who the custodian is, whether that was an 18 effective safeguard, protection or proper service 19 deemed legally sufficient for the hearing to be 20 21 fair. With regard to ORR --BY MR. ARULANANTHAM: 22 23 I was talking about while the child was in ORR custody obviously. 24 25 You said custodian. You mean ORR is the Α.

- 1 custodian?
- Q. Right, if ORR is the custodian, which is
- 3 often the case, where the child is in ORR custody
- 4 or if the child is released to a custodian that is
- 5 somebody who ORR has designated.
- 6 A. I think there's custodians and there's
- 7 custodians. There's custodians that are going
- 8 to -- that you're going to speak to the custodian
- 9 and find out whether that's an effective safeguard
- 10 and protection. Is it a parent? What is the
- 11 capabilities of that person? Is that sufficient?
- 12 With regard to ORR, just serving the notice
- on ORR without any indication as to whether the
- 14 child has received it or is aware of it, that
- 15 would not be my training that would be sufficient
- 16 service.
- 17 Q. Earlier when we were talking about a
- 18 case --
- 19 A. Let me say one thing, and I specifically
- 20 recall having trained on that --
- Q. On that being?
- 22 A. Service on ORR. If the notice to appear
- is served on ORR and then the child is in
- 24 proceedings, then I think you need actual service,
- 25 meaningful service, and I know that that --

- 1 because I specifically recall training on that and
- 2 making that statement.
- Q. Earlier when we were talking, you had
- 4 referred to a case about mental health cases in
- 5 the context of describing the Board reversing an
- 6 immigration judge's decision that failed to
- 7 describe certain safeguards. Do you recall that
- 8 testimony?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. Do you think that analogy between
- 11 children's cases and mental health cases is
- 12 relevant when assessing what safeguards should be
- 13 required to ensure that there's a fairing hearing?
- MR. SILVIS: Object to the topic.
- 15 Outside the scope.
- 16 A. No. I think what is relevant is
- 17 functionalities and factors that impairs one's
- ability to function in a manner that is required
- 19 for the hearing to be fair. But I don't think
- there's an analogy between a person with a mental
- 21 disorder and a child as far as a correlation
- 22 between the functionalities. We're talking about
- 23 about two different types of impairments.
- 24 I don't think that's accurate to say
- 25 impairments. I think it's two different -- what

- we're talking about really is different factors
- that may affect the person's ability to function.
- Q. When you do training, because I know you
- 4 do training on both sets of topics --
- 5 A. Right, right.
- 6 Q. -- do you use mental health procedures
- 7 and practices that you have implemented in that
- 8 context to describe what immigration judges should
- 9 do in cases involving children?
- 10 A. No. We use that same functionality
- 11 analysis that I talked about. Really the
- 12 trainings are separate. So you will see we don't
- do training on children and mental health because
- 14 I think they're very different. There are
- 15 different reasons. And the mental health requires
- 16 a predicate mental disorder. There's no evidence
- these children have a mental disorder.
- 18 That's why I say I think we matured in our
- assessment of these cases and why I think 07-01
- 20 would be written differently because I think what
- 21 we learned is we take the respondent and you look
- 22 at the respondent and you look at the respondent's
- 23 ability to function and see what they can perform
- and what they cannot perform and the impact of
- 25 their inability to perform on fairness.

And we look at the impairment. And some 1 impairments -- some people can proceed with impairment if the impairment doesn't affect the fundamental fairness of the proceeding. So I think that general analysis in that if you find that the impairment does not affect the fairness, then you proceed. If the impairment does affect the fairness, then you look for safeguards and protections. 9 That's really the overarching analysis that I 10 encourage with vulnerable populations. That's why 11 12 I say I think we have a better framework now to be 13 able to assess how an impairment, regardless of the cause. Even language ability or the fact that 14 we can't find the exact interpreter, it's the same 15 thing. If we don't have a good interpreter and 16 that impairs the respondent's ability to function, 17 if we can't get that exact dialect -- sometimes 18 having a different dialect may not impair, other 19 times it does. That's why I say that we'd kind of 20 redo the way we do things sometimes based upon the 21 22 knowledge and experience. So in some cases within that framework, 23 Q. the safeguard needed to ensure that the proceeding 24 25 is fair is counsel; correct?

- 1 MR. SILVIS: Objection.
- A. It's one that can be considered. That's
- 3 why 07-01 and all these other things, the child
- 4 advocate, I think together -- in the training we
- 5 try to give a tool kit so that you can find the
- 6 resource that you believe is necessary and that is
- 7 the appropriate safeguard and protection in that
- 8 case.
- 9 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:
- 10 Q. So you would train that then sometimes
- 11 judges should take steps to ensure representation
- for a child because that safeguard is needed to
- ensure the child has a fair hearing?
- MR. SILVIS: Objection. Outside the
- 15 topics.
- A. So we start with the supposition that
- judges should always encourage where possible pro
- 18 bono representatives. We always want -- in all
- cases to the extent possible, we would like the
- respondents to be represented.
- 21 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:
- Q. Why is that?
- A. It's much more effective. It makes a
- 24 much more efficient, effective proceeding. Using
- 25 the example that I mentioned, could I explain

- 1 immigration concepts to a preschool class of three
- year olds and four year olds? Yes, but it took me
- 3 a long, long time to do it. And so having a
- 4 representative that can do a lot of work -- it's
- 5 my obligation to make sure the hearing is fair,
- 6 but if there's somebody that can do part of that
- 7 work for me, it makes my life a whole lot easier.
- 8 That doesn't mean --
- 9 Q. You were saying that you encourage pro
- 10 bono representation as a general matter.
- 11 A. Um-hum.
- O. But do you also then train that in the
- 13 context of children's cases that sometimes the
- 14 safequard needed to ensure that the hearing is
- 15 fair is counsel?
- 16 A. In all cases we say that a safeguard and
- 17 protection should be considered is representation,
- and we work hard to try to make as many pro bono
- 19 resources available. We will ask the judge if
- 20 they believe that in a particular child's case, if
- 21 there is no pro bono representative available, to
- 22 reach out to the Office of Legal Access Programs
- to see if we can get help for the child in that
- 24 circumstance.
- Q. Would you train that there may be some

- 1 cases where the only appropriate safeguards in
- order to ensure there's a fair hearing is either
- 3 representation or stopping the hearing?
- 4 A. We've never trained on that one way or
- 5 another. My goal is to really get a match. What
- 6 is the ability to function and then you pick. I
- 7 would never dictate to judges in a particular case
- 8 you must use this safequard or protection in every
- 9 case.
- I have to be mindful. I want them to be
- 11 trained. I want them to understand. I want them
- 12 to have that analysis and to do that analysis and
- articulate it so the case doesn't come back. I
- want them to know what resources are available.
- But I can't cross the line into telling them how
- to handle particular cases or order particular
- 17 safeguards and protections in every case.
- Q. And I take it that's true of EOIR as a
- 19 general matter, you can't dictate how the judges
- 20 actually implement safeguards in any particular
- 21 case; is that right?
- MR. SILVIS: Same objection.
- 23 A. Correct, I believe.
- 24 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:
- Q. Let me put one more set of exhibits into

Page 81 the record and ask you quickly about them. 1 is 13, I believe. It's a document that at the top it says "2015 EOIR Legal Training Program Course Descriptions." Do you see that? Α. Yes. (Exhibit 13 was marked.) BY MR. ARULANANTHAM: 7 Do you recognize this course 8 description? 9 I do. Α. 10 What is it? 11 Q. It is a list of course descriptions of 12 Α. courses that were done in the 2015 EOIR legal 13 training program for judges. And just so you're 14 not misled, I should explain the purpose of this 15 document because it's probably not what you're 16 17 thinking the purpose was. This was prepared as part of the an 18 application to get continuing legal education for 19 these courses. It is meant to provide enough 20 information so that the Office of Legal Education 21 when they went to the various state bars could 22 assess whether CLE credit was justified, whether 23 there was enough legal content. It's not meant to 24 be an actual description beyond CLE purposes of 25

- 1 what was covered or what was needed.
- 2 There could be variance because this was
- 3 prepared in advance of the conference because we
- 4 have CLE deadlines. So as far as its accuracy as
- 5 actually saying this is what's described so that's
- 6 exactly what was covered, I can't say that. It
- 7 was a supporting documentation for CLE
- 8 documentation.
- 9 Q. This conference that this was submitted
- in advance for happened in August; is that right?
- 11 A. Correct.
- Q. On the second page, which is EOIR260,
- down at the bottom there's "Child Development and
- 14 Eliciting Accurate Information from Child
- 15 Witnesses." Do you see that?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. You presented on the panel on that
- 18 subject with Dr. Mack; is that correct?
- 19 A. No. I was the moderator.
- Q. Do you remember the content of that?
- 21 A. I was a moderator. To get CLE you have
- 22 to have an attorney on the panel to ask legal
- 23 questions. He presented. And it was basically
- 24 identical to his presentation. The presentation
- 25 at the other one we looked at from Dr. Mack was so

Page 83 effective that we invited him back again. 1 How did you measure its effectiveness? Α. By comments of the attendees and people 3 ask for copies of his slides, which unfortunately -- I shouldn't say unfortunately. Actually, it was included as part of the training CD from this program. (Recess from 2:28 p.m. to 2:37 p.m.) MR. SILVIS: Before we go on with 9 questioning, I'd like to see if you agree with 10 this stipulation. To the extent I object and just 11 say objection topic, that the objection is that 12 it's outside the topic of the 30(b)(6) and our 13 objection is that this witness is only answering 14 on behalf of himself. 15 MR. ARULANANTHAM: Much appreciated. 16 MR. SILVIS: Agreed? 17 MR. ARULANANTHAM: Yeah, agreed. 18 MR. SILVIS: It will go faster. 19 20 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM: Let's go back to the 07-01 memo for just 21 a minute. As to the use of all of these 22 procedures, is there any data or evidence that 23 their use improves the outcomes in immigration 24 25 cases?

Page 84 1 Α. I'm not aware of any study on that topic. 3 Q. Is it something you have tried to assess anyway? 4 Α. Every case is different and different ones would be used in different cases. So I'm not sure how you could really compare apples and apples because every respondent is different. 9 Safequards are different. 10 I'm not sure -- I haven't requested it. 11 trying to do -- in analyzing the docket, you have 12 to make sure you're comparing similar things. 13 Tough to figure out because there's so many variables. 14 15 If you look on page 6 of that under V, there's a sentence at the top that says, "There's 16 17 a consistency in the published recommendations for 18 improvements in handling children's cases." 19 Do you know what that refers to, the 20 published recommendations? 21 Yeah. I think that goes to things that are adopted here, the notion of making the child 22 feel comfortable in the proceeding. 23 24 Q. I'm sorry. It says published

recommendations. Do you know if there's a set of

25

- 1 publications somewhere, like a list of them? I
- don't mean like what's their context, but what are
- 3 the published recommendations, do you know? You
- 4 mean, it's talking about these, like this thing
- 5 being published.
- A. No, no. I think what it's talking
- 7 about, in the literature that makes
- 8 recommendations of steps you can take to handle
- 9 the cases of children, that the suggestions that
- are here, like taking off the robe, like allowing
- the children to bring toys and who they sit with,
- 12 that these are consistent with those other
- 13 recommendations.
- Q. Do you know specifically what the other
- 15 recommendations is referring to? Is it a set of
- 16 articles? Is it a set of books, guidelines? Do
- 17 you know what it's referring to?
- 18 A. I didn't draft it. I don't know what
- 19 specific documents they looked at. I think what
- 20 we're recommending is kind of the norm in the
- 21 field based on other courts and other literature
- generally, but I don't know what specifically they
- 23 looked at.
- Q. I want to ask you about topic 11 which
- is about the role of nonattorney adults who

- 1 accompany unrepresented children into immigration
- 2 court. Do you train on that subject?
- A. I would say broadly. I can't remember
- 4 how specific the training -- how specific the
- 5 training is. I would say yes, but I don't recall
- 6 content.
- Q. So you're authorized to speak not only
- 8 on training, but also on the substance of what the
- 9 agencies rules are about such individuals?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. I want to ask you some questions about
- 12 that.
- 13 A. Okay.
- Q. Can they, meaning nonattorney adults who
- 15 accompany unrepresented children in immigration
- 16 court, can they perform any of the tasks that
- would normally be performed by a lawyer?
- A. I'm not aware of any law that really
- 19 speaks directly to that issue. There are things
- 20 that say what you cannot do without the person
- 21 there. But there's not a lot of quidance out
- 22 there as to what the role -- what that person can
- 23 do.
- Q. Would you say the department then does
- 25 not have specific rules about what such people can

- 1 do?
- 2 A. No. I'm not aware of specific
- definitions or terms that take and categorize
- 4 people that may appear with a respondent and say
- 5 this category of person can do this and this one
- 6 cannot do that.
- 7 O. Does that mean it would be up to the
- 8 immigration judge in any given case whether to
- 9 allow a nonattorney adult who accompanies an
- 10 unrepresented child to do certain tasks?
- 11 A. If I'm correct on this, the answer would
- 12 be yes. The judge would have to determine what
- 13 functions the child is able to perform, look at
- 14 the adult, who the adult is, what the relationship
- is, how well that adult would serve in the role
- 16 needed and assess whether it's sufficient or
- 17 whether additional safequards are needed. I'm
- 18 hoping I'm correct on that, but that would be -- I
- 19 think that's the best answer I can give.
- 20 O. So somebody like an aunt or an uncle or
- 21 older sibling or something like that, a person
- 22 like that might be able to, say, admit allegations
- in the Notice to Appear, concede removability or
- 24 waive claims for relief, take steps like that and
- whether or not that person had the legal authority

- to do that would be up to the immigration judge in
- 2 a particular case; is that right?
- A. The key word is might because what the
- 4 judges indicated during their conversations is
- that they would communicate with the person and
- 6 establish the relationship and figure out who that
- 7 person is and make a determination on a
- 8 case-by-case basis.
- 9 Q. What are the criteria that go into that
- 10 determination, say, in my hypothetical example
- 11 where you have a nonparent relative who is waiving
- 12 claims for relief, conceding removability,
- 13 defending allegations?
- 14 A. I've never thought about it, and I don't
- 15 know that the agency has taken a position on that.
- I think there's just a huge range of totality of
- the circumstances that a judge would consider
- 18 based upon the person and whether the judge is of
- the opinion that that person can perform the
- functions needed for the hearing to be fair and
- 21 that whether that person would be an effective
- 22 safeguard and protection.
- Q. There's certainly no blanket bar to
- 24 having the person make those kinds of decisions
- 25 for the child then?

- 1 A. Not that I'm aware of. And I also -- we
- 2 have families where there's a parent as a lead for
- 3 the child, and I'm not aware of anything -- again,
- 4 I may be wrong because there's a lot of these --
- 5 I'm not aware of anything that expressly
- 6 authorizes the parent in the proceedings to make a
- 7 pleading for a child. So I don't know that
- 8 there's an express authorization or something that
- 9 speaks really definitively one way or another.
- 10 O. Just as you're not aware of an express
- 11 authorization, I take it you're also not aware of
- of an express prohibition either?
- 13 A. Correct.
- Q. I assume you're aware this happens in
- 15 cases sometimes; correct?
- 16 A. I believe so.
- 17 O. Do immigration judges take steps to
- 18 screen nonattorney adults in these kinds of
- 19 situations?
- 20 A. That's what they've told me.
- 21 O. What's the criteria for the screening
- 22 then?
- 23 A. I think they speak to the person. They
- 24 talk to them about the case. They interact with
- 25 the person. For example, in Los Angeles the

- judges told me they will not proceed without a
- 2 person, a custodian showing up.
- In Houston they were telling me that 95 to
- 4 99, if I have the number correct, somebody is
- 5 there with the child. I forgot the information
- 6 out of Seattle.
- 7 In a very, very high majority, up into the
- 8 mid to upper 90 percent of the cases someone is
- 9 showing up with the child. They would communicate
- and interact with the person.
- 11 Q. Do you know in what percentage of cases
- that person who is showing up with the child is
- 13 also making substantive legal decisions in the
- 14 case, like conceding removability and waiving
- applications for relief and things like that?
- 16 A. In our case management system, there's
- 17 nowhere that would be captured or reflected that
- 18 I'm aware of that I could pull up that information
- 19 or the agency could.
- Q. What if a child wants to apply for some
- 21 form of relief or take a certain step and their
- 22 nonattorney adult who is accompanying them doesn't
- want to do that, what's the department's position
- 24 about what the judge should do in that situation?
- A. You're saying the child wants to apply

- 1 and the adult does not?
- O. It could be the reverse, too. Just
- 3 there's conflict.
- A. Our training is they should consult with
- 5 the child advocate. That would be a case where
- 6 the judge has the option of referring the case to
- 7 a child advocate.
- I have a case where there is a reason to
- 9 believe that the mother's boyfriend was sexually
- 10 molesting the child and that the mother was
- 11 seeking voluntary departure to whisk the child
- 12 away before the investigation could complete or
- 13 something could happen.
- 14 In that case I received a request from the
- 15 judge for a child advocate to make the voluntary
- departure really was in the best interest of the
- 17 child. It results in strange U visa issue
- 18 questions. They would have that option. They
- 19 would also have the option to seek pro bono
- 20 representation for Friend of the Court.
- 21 All three courts have very active Friend of
- the Court programs. There's a very, very high
- 23 percentage of Friend of the Court actually showing
- 24 up in proceedings in those locations. So that
- 25 would be another option to investigate and have

- 1 that.
- I know in Seattle KIND is more often than
- 3 not -- I'm hesitant to say in every single
- 4 juvenile case. I don't know the numbers, but very
- 5 often KIND, Kids in Need of Defense, is sitting in
- 6 the back of the court as a Friend of the Court.
- 7 I know in Los Angeles we have Public Counsel,
- 8 CARECEN, KIND, Esperanza specifically there.
- 9 There's some smaller groups that will cover Orange
- 10 County if needed.
- I know in Houston there's quite a few law
- 12 clinics as well. And in some of these locations
- 13 the court actually sends out the calendar in
- 14 advance and then those groups coordinate and
- 15 decide who will cover.
- So another option is in many of these cases,
- 17 there is a Friend of the Court present, and the
- 18 general practice would be the judge would hear the
- 19 cases of kids who were represented, step out of
- 20 the courtroom. The Friend of the Court would make
- 21 a Know Your Rights presentation in the case and
- then sometimes do intake or meet with the
- 23 respondents or come as a Friend of the Court.
- So the judge could either refer them to them,
- or they could come into contact there, or the

Page 93 judge would have the option to seek out pro bono 1 counsel as well to make sure the child's interests and the parents' are consistent. Several things I want to ask you about Ο. that answer. How often do you get referrals for 5 child advocate requests from immigration judges? I would say -- and this is based on your instructions to estimate if I don't know an 8 9 answer. That's appreciated. 10 Q. I would say maybe three a month. 11 Α. Do you know how many child advocates 12 Ο. 13 there are? Α. I don't. 14 Do you know what percentage of the cases 15 16 they appear in? I don't and there's nothing in our case 17 Α. management system also where there's a field you 18 can enter or where that would be able to be 19 20 tracked. There isn't? 21 Ο. There isn't. It's ORR that assigns the 22 Α. child advocate. So that would be ... 23

Do you know if there's a geographic

limitation on child advocates or they can appear

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0.

- 1 anywhere around the country?
- A. There's not a geographic limitation.
- 3 The process is the immigration judges would refer
- 4 the case to me. And generally what I do is I
- 5 reach out to the Young Center as our first point.
- 6 They will let me know if they have capacity or
- 7 not. If not, we would go to someone else.
- 8 Right now the organizations are somewhat in
- 9 flux due to changes in funding and who is getting
- 10 the grants. So things will change. But largely
- 11 what we do is go to the Young Center. Then we
- would go to USCCB and I think USCRI.
- 13 Q. How would a child advocate help an
- 14 immigration judge resolve a conflict in the way
- 15 you described? I understand an advocate can make
- 16 a recommendation about what's in the best interest
- 17 of the child.
- 18 A. Um-hum.
- 19 Q. What is the judge's obligation with
- 20 respect to that recommendation?
- 21 A. So obligation -- because the child
- 22 advocate is established by the TVPRA, they're
- 23 required to consider it in the court. The reason
- 24 why we trained on that in one of those earlier
- 25 training programs is because I was concerned that

Page 95 the judge would not understand the role of the 1 child advocate. So we had the Young Center come in and actually explain the parameters because I was afraid -- immigration judges know -- information traditionally before the TVPRA came in certain formats. It came from one party or the other. was concerned that the judges would say to the child advocate you can't speak to me, you're not a party, if you have information. They wouldn't 10 understand what the role was. 11 So we've had both in the most recent 12 training, but also mandatory DVD training, video 13 training for all judges where the Young Center 14 presented and expressly presented the difference 15 between representing the best interest and the 16 legal representation so that there was no turning 17 to the child advocate and saying, hey, you need to 1.8 file an I-589 on the person. 19 Because the child advocate does not have 20 authority, for example, to file application for 21 asylum, is that what you're saying? 22 Correct. The child advocate is not a 23 Α. 24 legal representative. They are there to indicate the best interests of the child. You asked for 25

- 1 kind of how a judge or what a judge would do.
- 2 If a child is asking for repatriation, the
- 3 child advocate may do safe return studies. I've
- 4 seen reports where there's actually pictures of
- 5 the house and location the child going to go to.
- 6 But also the legal representative is bound by the
- 7 express interest of the child.
- If the child says I don't want to apply for
- 9 asylum, I want to go back to my palace and play
- 10 with my Nintendo and I'm not afraid and I'm not
- 11 going and the judge has reason to believe based on
- 12 country conditions that that is not the case, the
- judge can request a best interest determination to
- 14 see is the express interest consistent with the
- 15 best interest.
- Q. Let's take that example. Let's say the
- 17 child persists in the determination that he or she
- doesn't want to apply for asylum and the child
- 19 advocate's determination is that it would be
- 20 dangerous to send the home.
- 21 Can the immigration judge grant asylum under
- those circumstances?
- A. Force the respondent to seek relief?
- Q. What would the immigration judge do in
- 25 that situation?

It's a good hypothetical question. Α. 1 not aware of it having come up. I think what they would need to do is really speak to counsel and try to get counsel to convince the child to apply. But I think if ultimately the family or the child -- if somebody doesn't want to apply for relief, I'm not sure that we can force them to apply. We have ways as judges -- I have that in the 9 detention facility where I though respondents did 10 not want to seek relief and I had ways of kind of 11 12 making them, taking away the incentive not to 13 apply. I was imagining in your hypothetical 14 there was no counsel. And in that situation is 15 there anything the child advocate can do beyond 16 having stated what their opinion is about the best 17 interest of the child? 18 The child advocate really -- I 19 Α. think the child advocate could present information 20 on the country conditions. I don't think -- I 21 have not seen this and it would be unique, but I 22 don't think there's anything that would prohibit a 23 judge from taking an I-599 and questioning the 24 respondent and taking evidence from the child 25

- 1 advocate. But this fact pattern hasn't really
- 2 come up.
- The judge has an obligation to develop the
- 4 record. If I really, really believed that a child
- 5 was going to be persecuted and everybody on the
- 6 respondent's side is saying no, I'd have to get
- 7 creative and look for safeguard and protection.
- 8 Q. You also said Friend of the Court could
- 9 be consulted in this situation. This is my
- 10 situation where we're imagining a conflict between
- what the child wants and what the nonattorney
- 12 adult with the child wants.
- Let me step back and imagine a more typical
- 14 situation where, say, the child wants to apply for
- 15 relief and the adult custodian does not. The
- 16 adult custodian wants to send the child back home
- 17 to, say, their parents. How would a Friend of the
- 18 Court be able to resolve that conflict?
- 19 A. They can speak to both of them and
- 20 explain what the relief is and the benefits of the
- 21 relief and the pros and cons of the relief. They
- can assist them in preparing the application.
- 23 They can do a lot, short of -- at the point they
- 24 enter an E-28, they're no longer a Friend of the
- 25 Court. But they can do a lot without actually

- 1 entering on as a representative.
- Q. Can they resolve the dispute with
- 3 respect to the judge? Can they tell the judge the
- 4 child does want to pursue the relief or the child
- 5 doesn't want to pursue the relief if the custodian
- 6 is saying one thing and the child is saying
- 7 something else?
- 8 A. So if the custodian is saying don't
- 9 apply?
- 10 Q. Yes, and the child actually wants to.
- 11 A. Can the Friend of the Court -- so the
- 12 child wants to and the custodian does not want to?
- Q. Let me step back. I asked you earlier
- is there any guidance about what authority the
- 15 nonattorney adult has in cases like this. Can the
- 16 nonattorney adult, say, waive request for relief
- 17 and requests other than voluntary departure and
- 18 requests voluntary departure, for example. Like
- 19 you say there's no particular guidance on the
- 20 subject.
- 21 So then I was asking about situations where
- the nonattorney adult wants to, for example, waive
- 23 any relief other than voluntary departure, but the
- 24 child may actually want to stay in the United
- 25 States. How do you resolve that conflict?

- 1 You said one option is you go to the Friend
- of the Court. I'm asking what can the Friend of
- 3 the Court do to resolve that situation?
- 4 A. Well, I think what you can do is the
- 5 question. In that instance where the adult wants
- 6 to waive and the child does not and I wanted the
- 7 child to apply, I would say the waiver is not
- 8 knowing, voluntary and intelligent. Whether or
- 9 not it was or not, I'm not going to let the adult
- 10 waive on behalf of the child.
- 11 Q. You're saying that as an immigration
- 12 judge?
- 13 A. Correct.
- Q. Wearing your immigration judge hat?
- 15 A. As how I would exercising my independent
- 16 authority as an immigration judge handle that
- 17 particular situation.
- Q. But it wouldn't be contrary to any
- 19 binding rule for a judge not to take that approach
- 20 if they thought it was appropriate in that
- 21 situation and instead to allow the nonattorney
- 22 adult's decision to govern. That's also
- 23 consistent with whatever their obligations are?
- A. Right. I think the law is silent on the
- 25 topic.

0. Do nonattorney adults -- can an 1 immigration judge require the participation of a nonattorney adult? 3 They are requiring the presence of an Α. adult in some of the courts. Whether they can require the participation of the adult, again, I think the problem is there is a regulation relating to pleading that says you cannot take a pleading from a child -- actually I don't think it 9 uses the word child. I think it specifies the 10 age, and the ages vary -- without the presence of 11 certain people including a relative which implies, 12 implies that the presence of that person makes a 13 difference, but it doesn't say and fundamental 14 fairness doesn't really speak to what that person 15 16 can do or not do. We know they can't do things if they're not 17 present which seems to imply that their presence 18 is some form of protection, but it doesn't really 19 20 tell -- there's nothing in that regulation as drafted that says what the role is or it doesn't 21 even define the categories listed. 22 So I think it's up to the interpretation the 23 way the regs are right now to figure out whether 24 the presence of that person really does allow you 25

- 1 to do a fundamentally fair hearing. And I don't
- think there's anything that says it does, and I
- 3 don't think there's anything that really says it
- 4 doesn't.
- 5 Q. The immigration judges that are
- 6 requiring their presence, as I understand it, in
- 7 some cases judges are saying that if the
- 8 nonattorney adults does not come to court, they'll
- 9 order the child removed in absentia. Is that your
- 10 understanding?
- 11 A. Ms. Jackson and I have been
- 12 communicating about this because there was a judge
- in Los Angeles, and it came in the context of a
- 14 stakeholder meeting, it came up where it appeared
- 15 that a judge -- I'm not aware that she actually
- 16 did it, but seemed to kind of threaten or imply in
- 17 a number of hearings -- I asked for specific case
- numbers and they were provided -- that judges were
- 19 saying I will waive the -- a judge would waive the
- 20 presence of the child and that the adult's
- 21 presence would not be waived.
- I don't know whether it was that they ordered
- 23 the adult to show up or just said the adult can
- show up, but if the adult doesn't show up, the
- 25 judge in that case threatened to proceed in

- 1 absentia. And in the stakeholder meeting the
- 2 guestion from counsel was is that acceptable, and
- 3 my answer was absolutely not. I don't think
- 4 there's anything in law or statute that regulation
- 5 that allows that to occur. I told her I would
- 6 follow up on it, and I have.
- 7 I don't know if this is the venue. I called
- 8 the assistant chief judge for that judge, said
- 9 here's the update, and had him listen to the
- 10 tapes, listen to the DAR recording of the case to
- 11 see what was going on.
- 12 And it looked like the practice wasn't
- occurring, but there was enough discussion and
- 14 there was enough indication that it was being
- 15 considered or that at least the blanket threat was
- 16 made -- it was ambiguous enough that this was an
- intent or that the judge might believe you could
- do something like this, that we decided to go
- 19 forward, and he and I are communicating, basically
- 20 speak with the judge and stop the practice.
- 21 O. When you say stop the practice, what
- 22 authority do you have to stop a judge from
- 23 engaging in a practice like that?
- A. The authority we have as judges are
- 25 under performance work plans where knowledge of

- 1 the law is an element and that's not the law. I
- 2 mean, judges have certain authorities by statute
- 3 and regulation. They are delegatees of the
- 4 attorney general, and there are certain powers
- 5 they have and certain rules and regulations that
- 6 they must follow. And there's no basis in law for
- 7 that practice. It's got to stop, and it will
- 8 stop.
- 9 Q. The reason why it's unlawful is because
- 10 the immigration judge is also waiving the presence
- of the child; correct? Because an immigration
- judge could proceed in absentia in a case where
- 13 neither the child nor the adult nonattorney had
- shown up to court obviously; is that right?
- A. It's illegal because you can't tell the
- 16 respondent you don't have to show up and then when
- the respondent doesn't show up tell him, you know,
- 18 because there's -- you get notice of hearing and
- 19 to say here's your notice of the time and place to
- show up, you don't have to be there, and then put
- 21 a consequence.
- Q. If a judge doesn't waive the appearance
- of the child but the adult that that child is
- living with fails to bring the child to court,
- even if the child wants to come to court, the

- 1 judge can certainly order to remove the child in
- 2 absentia then?
- A. If the legal reguirements for in
- 4 absentia are met, the judge would have the
- 5 ability. It ties to that last answer. Not only
- 6 is the failure of a child to show, if waived,
- 7 which I don't think is proper notice, hand a paper
- 8 notice and say you can ignore it, but also I think
- 9 it falls under the exceptional circumstances for
- 10 failure to appear, which would be an exceptional
- 11 circumstance for your failure to appear is I say
- 12 you don't have to show up.
- So I think in that particular case the judge
- 14 would have to consider the evidence, the child is
- 15 not there if the adult is not there, and determine
- 16 whether the notice was proper and whether the
- judge is aware of exceptional circumstances for
- 18 explaining the child failure to appear and would
- 19 not have to go -- there's nothing that requires
- 20 them to proceed in absentia if they think the due
- 21 process didn't require it. The judge would have
- 22 the option to continue it.
- Q. Are you aware of whether children
- 24 sometimes fail to appear in court because there's
- 25 no transport available that allows them to appear

- in the court? Is that a widespread phenomenon?
- 2 Are you aware of that?
- 3 MR. SILVIS: Objection. Topic.
- A. I'm not aware of it, but I am aware that
- 5 small children, a two year old, is not going to be
- 6 able to get to court. That would be an example of
- 7 a case where you would have to look at it and
- 8 decide how appropriately to proceed, and we did
- 9 cover that in the training on absentia.
- 10 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:
- Q. You're not aware of whether that's sort
- of a widespread problem right now generally?
- MR. SILVIS: Same objection.
- 14 A. We don't know when somebody doesn't show
- up unless somebody has contacted the court or
- 16 there's some evidence -- we don't know whether
- it's a tactical decision or transportation.
- 18 There's the ability to move to reopen the case if
- 19 an explanation comes up that the court is aware
- of. Very often we don't know why the person did
- 21 not show up.
- 22 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:
- Q. You're I know familiar with the Franco
- 24 court rulings on the role of nonattorney adults
- who accompany people with mental defects in

Page 107 immigration court; right? 1 MR. SILVIS: Objection. Scope. Α. Yes, I am. 3 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM: If those rules applied in this context, Q. would the activities that we've been discussing -would some of the activities we've been discussing be prohibited? MR. SILVIS: Objection. 9 They're apples and oranges because the 10 Α. Franco ruling in that regard is the presence of 11 the person does not alter the determination as to 12 whether the person is able to function. So you're 13 using that to determine what the guidance is 14 following the definition. Either you have a 15 mental disorder that significantly impairs your 16 cognitive, emotional or behavioral ability to 17 perform the adjudicative and decisional 18 competencies or you don't. And the fact somebody 19 20 is sitting with you does not change the fact as to whether you can perform them or not. 21 Same for the child. Whether the parent is 22 sitting there doesn't impact whether the child can 23 perform or not perform the function. Really the 24 question there is what is the impact as a 25

- 1 safeguard and protection to make sure the hearing
- 2 is fair.
- 3 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:
- 4 Q. When an immigration judge is trying to
- 5 determine whether it's fair to proceed in a case
- 6 involving an unrepresented child, the department's
- 7 position is as in the Franco context, right, that
- 8 the presence of the nonattorney adult in the
- 9 courtroom should not bear on the judge's
- 10 determination as to whether or not the child has
- 11 the capacity to proceed in the case; is that
- 12 right?
- 13 A. The child is able to do or not do what
- 14 the child is able to do or not do, regardless of
- 15 the fact that I'm there or a parent is there or
- not there. So when I'm sitting with my son with
- 17 his homework and he's trying to do it, the fact
- 18 I'm sitting next to him doesn't change whether
- 19 he's able to do it or not.
- 20 My role doesn't come until he's not able to
- 21 do it and then the question is, is there some role
- I can play to achieve the objective.
- Q. I'm still trying to understand whether
- there's a proper analogy here or not. I
- understand you're saying the judge has to first

- 1 make a determination about what the child's
- 2 capacity is and that judgment has to be made
- 3 irrespective of whether the adult is next to the
- 4 child or not; is that correct?
- 5 A. Right.
- O. Once you're beyond that and there's a
- 7 determination the child is not able to proceed in
- 8 representing themselves, if we work by analogy in
- 9 the Franco context, the fact that there's a
- 10 competent relative also in the room is irrelevant
- 11 to the question of whether the person who is not
- able to represent themselves is entitled to an
- 13 attorney. If they are not, they don't meet the
- definition of pro se competency, then they're
- 15 entitled to an attorney.
- 16 Is it the department view the same would be
- 17 true with respect to children then, that if the
- child doesn't have the capacity to represent
- 19 themselves, then it doesn't matter for purposes of
- 20 determining whether the judge should proceed, that
- 21 there's an adult relative sitting next to them?
- MR. SILVIS: Object to the form.
- A. The question is really unique, I mean,
- in the sense it would be kind of hard to follow
- 25 because it assumed Franco and it was pretty

- 1 knotted, but I think I can answer it.
- What I am able to do I'm able to do
- 3 regardless of whether you're sitting next to me or
- 4 not. So if the child cannot perform, just like
- 5 under Franco, the fact a parent is sitting with
- 6 them does not change what they can do or not.
- 7 The next step of the analysis -- first you
- 8 identify what functions the child or the mental
- 9 incompetent respondent cannot perform. Some of
- those are decisional competencies that they're
- 11 required to do and some are adjudicative
- 12 competencies. And each one has a different
- 13 standard of what defines how severe the impairment
- 14 is.
- When you figure out what the child is not
- able to do, which is generally they have to know
- 17 these things and they have to be able to do
- 18 certain things, you have to look at how impaired
- 19 the ability to do those things is. The fact a
- 20 parent is there doesn't change how impaired the
- 21 ability to do those things is.
- The next step of the analysis is to figure
- out given that impairment, can you conduct a
- 24 fundamentally fair proceeding. The next step then
- is -- the answer of whether you can conduct a

- 1 fundamentally fair hearing is based upon is there
- 2 a safequard or protection available that can
- 3 compensate for the function the respondent is not
- 4 able to perform.
- 5 So what I'm saying is where the parent falls
- 6 in, just like it doesn't fall in the analysis up
- 7 to that stage, where that person really comes in
- 8 is -- and it comes in in Franco, too -- is in
- 9 considering what safeguard or protection. So if
- 10 you have a respondent who has a mental disorder,
- 11 the presence of the parent may somehow impact the
- 12 person's ability to function as a safeguard or
- 13 protection. Having mom sit by or mom collect
- 14 evidence or mom do something might help a
- 15 respondent who could not do that on their own get
- 16 a fair hearing.
- 17 I'm not saying the parent will or will not in
- every case, but I mean, I think it's something
- 19 that goes into the mix of -- and you may need
- 20 multiple safeguards and protections. You may have
- 21 to cut the hearing short. You may have to lower
- the level and the tone. You may have to chunk
- 23 tasks. You may have the presence, the family
- 24 helping the respondent. There's a lot of things.
- 25 That's why I say my role as an ACIJ for

- 1 vulnerable populations is to try to help create a
- 2 cafeteria approach of resources that are available
- 3 to immigration judges.
- 4 Your position is that a representative should
- 5 be available for all cases in all those. We don't
- 6 have that yet. But my role now is to have the
- 7 widest range of tools and resources available to
- 8 try to fill in for the gap in functioning. And a
- 9 parent could play a role whether the inability to
- 10 function is due to a mental disorder or due to
- 11 youth.
- 12 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:
- Q. Let me switch gears quickly and ask you
- 14 about topic nine, which is the pleading rule that
- you were talking about earlier, CFR 1240.10(c).
- A. Do we have a copy of it just so I can
- 17 look at it?
- 18 O. I don't.
- 19 A. I do. I actually have it here. Can I
- 20 open it?
- Q. You're welcome to open it. I'm sure the
- questions I ask you you'll be able to answer
- 23 without reference to the text.
- What is the purpose of the rule?
- A. I have personal ideas, but I don't know

- the drafting history of the rule or the regulatory
- 2 intent that might show up, may show up in the
- 3 preamble if I was to read it, but I haven't read
- 4 the preamble.
- 5 Q. But when you train, obviously you have
- 6 to discuss the purpose of the rule in the context
- 7 of training, how judges can comply with it; right?
- 8 So in that context, what would you say was the
- 9 purpose?
- 10 A. I think the purpose of the rule is to
- 11 prohibit an immigration judge from taking --
- 12 accepting an admission of removability from an
- unaccompanied respondent -- at this point I'm kind
- of reading the rule -- who is incompetent -- from
- an unrepresented respondent who is incompetent or
- 16 under the age of 18 and is not accompanied by one
- 17 of those list of individuals.
- 18 O. Why is that rule there only for those
- 19 two classes of individuals, that is individuals
- 20 under the age of 18 and incompetent individuals?
- 21 What's the concern? Why wouldn't that just be the
- 22 rule for everyone?
- A. Well, I think it is the rule for
- 24 everyone, though not specified because you have
- other respondents who you choose not to take a

- 1 pleading from. But I think in this case -- in
- 2 those you have the discretion as a judge to not
- 3 take the pleading if you think there's an issue
- 4 regarding the respondent. But I think here it
- 5 specifies.
- 6 Q. It's a prohibition?
- A. It's a prohibition.
- 8 Q. What's the rationale for the stricter
- 9 rule in this context than in others?
- 10 A. I don't know the rationale. I didn't
- 11 write it. But apparently the drafters believe
- that the presence of the listed people somehow
- allow you to go forward with the practice.
- Q. Let's leave the list of people aside for
- a minute. Assume there's no list of people. Is
- it the department's view there's something
- 17 categorically different about those two classes of
- 18 people, incompetent people and people under 18 if
- 19 unrepresented --
- MR. SILVIS: Objection. Topics.
- Q. -- that requires a stricter rule in this
- 22 context?
- MR. SILVIS: Objection. Topic.
- A. I don't think the department takes a
- 25 position. I think the rule is the rule, and it's

- 1 the law. So really our position -- we can't take
- a position. We got to apply the law, and that's
- 3 the way it's written now.
- 4 Q. Can the immigration judge ask questions
- 5 of a child, since we're primarily talking about
- 6 children, of an unrepresented child who fits under
- 7 the regulatory definition there to establish the
- 8 factual predicates that would be sufficient to
- 9 sustain the allegations even without actually just
- 10 taking the admission as a legal matter?
- 11 A. On that issue, there's Circuit case law.
- 12 So the Circuit case law kind of expands on that
- 13 because the exact words here are that you cannot
- 14 accept an admission of removability, but the
- 15 Circuits have provided further guidance regarding
- 16 the issue you're asking. And I don't know all of
- 17 the Circuit law.
- I don't feel real comfortable because I
- 19 didn't read it. But I know that there's further
- 20 guidance in each Circuit -- I shouldn't say each
- 21 Circuit, but at least in multiple. I know there's
- 22 quidance in the 9th regarding what are the
- 23 parameters of what you can do and cannot do.
- Q. Is it the position of the department
- 25 that an immigration judge can question the child

- 1 about the predicate like I was talking about and
- 2 obtain the facts needed to sustain the allegation
- 3 then?
- 4 MR. SILVIS: Objection. Asked and
- 5 answered.
- 6 A. If the law of the Circuit authorizes it.
- 7 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:
- Q. If the law of the Circuit doesn't
- 9 prohibit it, it hasn't read the regulation more
- 10 broadly to encompass not just the admission, but
- also the factual statements, then there's no
- 12 prohibition in your view?
- 13 A. I'm sorry. I lost the --
- 14 Q. Many of the things we've been
- discussing, there's no Circuit law on the subject,
- but, nonetheless, you give guidance to immigration
- judges. You were just telling us a few minutes
- 18 ago you were going to stop a practice in one
- 19 instance.
- I'm asking you about this practice, the
- 21 practice of the immigration judge questioning the
- 22 child when there is no such qualifying
- 23 individuals, that they'd be prohibited from taking
- an admission of allegation, but questioning the
- 25 child about the facts needed to establish the

- 1 allegations and then going ahead and making the
- 2 finding on that basis.
- 3 My question to you is: Absent Circuit law
- 4 prohibiting it, is it the position of the
- 5 department that that's inappropriate conduct by an
- 6 immigration judge?
- 7 A. We don't have a position on it
- 8 because -- the example -- you made analogy that's
- 9 not accurate. The practice we're stopping is
- 10 because it's an illegal practice. So here the
- 11 judge has to follow what the Circuit says. And
- 12 the Circuit -- I think -- I believe the Circuit
- 13 gave specific guidance as to what you can do or
- 14 not do.
- So for me to try to make pretend that Circuit
- 16 precedent that exists doesn't exist and speculate
- on what would happen in that world -- I can't go
- 18 there. I don't know the answer. We got to follow
- 19 the law. The Circuits have spoken.
- 20 O. Do you know if the practice I'm talking
- 21 about is common or not?
- 22 A. I think there are judges who do believe
- 23 that you can ask questions to establish a factual
- 24 basis. You cannot take a pleading. You cannot
- 25 ask the respondent to admit or deny. You cannot

- 1 ask a respondent to concede or contest
- 2 removability. Yet judges -- I know there are
- 3 judges who believe you can ask questions regarding
- 4 the factual basis.
- 5 Q. Absent Circuit authority saying
- 6 contrary, you and the department would not be
- 7 telling judges to stop that practice?
- A. I don't think we've taken a position one
- 9 way or the other. I think that's an area of
- 10 judicial interpretation as to what the law
- 11 authorizes the judge to do in that specific -- I
- 12 can't say in that one, unlike the other example,
- it's clearly illegal and it must stop.
- I think that one, the regulation and the
- 15 Circuit -- again, I don't know the Circuit law,
- 16 but I think the regulation on its face on
- ambiguous enough that that's why the Circuits had
- 18 to step in and clarify what you could do and not
- 19 do. You have to follow the Circuit law.
- Q. There's a variant on this practice where
- 21 the DHS trial attorney would do the questioning
- 22 rather than the judge. Am I right that your
- position about that would be the same as well,
- 24 that is unless there's Circuit authority barring
- it, you would not instruct the judges to stop is

Page 119 1 that practice? MR. SILVIS: Objection. Topic. I was not aware of that practice. have to think about what my instruction would be and whether that is again legally permissible. I'd have to do research to see if it's legally permissible. And then second, even if legally permissible, as a best practice without saying if it is legally permissible. That's part of the training, is this a best practice, is something we 10 should be doing. 11 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM: 12 If you don't prohibit the immigration 13 Ο. judges from doing it themselves as a best practice 14 or you don't say the best practice is not to do 15 that, why would it be different for the DHS 16 attorney to do it? 17

- MR. SILVIS: Same objection. 18
- Because, I mean, that's the legal issue. 19 Α.
- The legal issue is whether a government attorney 20
- who takes factual statements from a respondent 21
- renders the proceeding fundamentally unfair. 22
- have to research. I don't know if there would be 23
- 24 a difference. It makes me more uncomfortable
- admittedly, but I don't have a legal basis or 25

- 1 something right now I could pin without
- 2 researching the law.
- 3 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:
- 4 Q. As it stands now, you don't instruct or
- 5 provide guidance on that subject?
- 6 MR. SILVIS: Objection.
- 7 A. It hasn't come to my attention. I would
- 8 have to think about it, but I don't love the
- 9 practice. And if in a state court or meeting we
- 10 got a statement about that was occurring, I would
- 11 look into it. If illegal, we would shut it down.
- 12 If it falls within the realm of judicial
- independence, we would probably have to leave it
- 14 to work its way through.
- 15 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:
- 16 Q. Does the immigration judge have the
- authority to take a concession if there is an
- 18 adult nonlawyer who is accompanying the child to
- 19 court?
- 20 A. Concession of removability?
- Q. Yeah.
- 22 A. It has to be that the factual
- 23 allegations support the charge. Are we assuming
- 24 that the adult admitted all the allegations and
- 25 conceded?

1 Q. Yes.

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That poses a similar question as far as 2 I'm not aware of anything -- the regulation seems to say the presence of that person somehow impacts everything. In spite of the fact that it appears ambiguously to somehow impact something, I'm not sure that my training for the judges -- I think you have to assess whether that presence of that person really makes a difference in the fairness and whether it is an appropriate safeguard or 10 11 protection. 12 So just because the regulation says you can 13

So just because the regulation says you can do it with these people present, I don't know that my training to a judge or that I've ever trained a judge to say go ahead and do it anyway. With that being said, I think the difference is factual allegations and conclusions of law are two different levels of competency.

So I could see a fact pattern where I might be more inclined possibly, without having had the issue and researched the law and don't know what the Circuit has spoken on it, but where somebody may be competent to admit did the child ever get a paper to be here, where was the child born, did the child cross in a car, where did the child come

- in, those types of things, were either of the
- 2 child's parents citizens or nationals, rather than
- 3 just make a statement regarding whether the child
- 4 had been admitted or whether the waving of the
- 5 child through in the back seat of a car
- 6 substitutes a legal inspection.
- 7 So I think you'd have to do a separate
- 8 analysis on the safeguard and protection for one
- 9 versus the other because its different
- 10 functionality is required.
- 11 Q. I take that answer to be how you would
- approach it if you were adjudicating such a case,
- 13 but you haven't trained on this question and the
- department does not have a position on this
- 15 question generally, the question of what adult
- 16 nonlawyers --
- 17 A. The department's official position on
- this question would be to follow the law. And
- 19 then if there's room for judicial interpretation,
- interpret it consistently with due process and
- 21 fundamental fairness.
- Q. Is there any separate constraint --
- 23 still on the subject of 1240.10 -- is there any
- separate constraint on the judge's authority to
- 25 take factual statements from a child based on the

Page 123 child's capacity? 1 MR. SILVIS: Objection. Topic. 2 I'm not aware of any statutory or Α. 3 regulatory prohibitions. Going back to what we said, that doesn't mean that a judge is not able 5 to if they believe fundamental fairness is not ... BY MR. ARULANANTHAM: Do you know if there's case law on that Ο. 8 subject? 9 Not that I'm aware of. 10 Α. So you wouldn't train on that as a 11 Ο. distinct issue, the issue of the ability to make 12 the factual statement rather than the legal 13 admission; you wouldn't train separately on that? 14 I wouldn't say we wouldn't train it. 15 What I would do is we would present the range of 16 options. 17 So, for example, I'm one of the editors of 18 the Immigration Law Adviser. What we will do is 19 we will present this is the issue and this is what 20 the Circuit is and this is what this Circuit is 21 and present all the positions. We don't give 22

What I wouldn't do is say, you must do XYZ.

legal advice. They're free to make their

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decision.

- 1 We might present the various options, suggested
- 2 best practices, raise the issue. But I think
- 3 where there's ambiguity or at least room for
- 4 judicial interpretation, I would be reticent to
- 5 step in and order somebody to do it one way or the
- 6 other.
- 7 (Exhibit 14 was marked.)
- 8 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:
- 9 Q. Let me introduce Exhibit 14, EOIR229.
- 10 This is an email from Sabina Boone-Fisher to all
- judges on March 24, 2015, and the attachment is
- 12 Docketing Practices Memorandum. Do you see that
- 13 document?
- 14 A. I do.
- Q. Underneath it there's a memo from Brian
- 16 O'Leary. That's the next page. Are you familiar
- 17 with this document?
- 18 A. I am.
- Q. What was the occasion that led to the
- 20 sending out of this memo?
- 21 A. There was an increase in families and
- 22 children entering the United States, and the
- 23 Administration determined that our resources in
- 24 the courts should be reallocated to address these
- 25 cases over our nondetained dockets.

- 1 O. This memo also speaks to continuance
- 2 practices.
- 3 A. Right.
- Q. Was there a reason why that in
- 5 particular was addressed in this memo? It's II on
- 6 page 2. Sorry. It's page 1 of the memo.
- 7 A. The idea is to get the case on the
- 8 docket for first hearing quickly. It did not
- 9 speak to what happened really after that. So the
- 10 purpose of this was to let the judges know that we
- 11 want you to hold an initial hearing quickly, but
- that beyond that, it's your discretion applying
- 13 appropriate legal standards of good cause as to
- 14 how to proceed thereafter.
- O. Prior to the memo being issued, was
- 16 there any information that you were receiving that
- immigration judges were not complying with the
- 18 good cause standard with respect to granting
- 19 continuances?
- 20 MR. SILVIS: Objection. Topic
- 21 A. Did you say were there any?
- 22 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:
- Q. Did you get information that judges were
- 24 not complying with the good cause standard in
- 25 granting continuances prior to the issuance of

- 1 this memo?
- 2 A. I think there was concern expressed that
- 3 people felt that the length of continuances may
- 4 have shortened, not the number of continuances,
- 5 but the lengths of continuances. And so we wanted
- 6 to make it really clear.
- 7 And it went one step beyond that in that I
- 8 remember specifically in an assistant chief judge
- 9 meeting the chief judge said -- and that ties kind
- of to that illegal -- that use of any type of case
- 11 completion goal as a rationale for denial of a
- 12 continuance would fall below the performance
- expected in the judge's rating and may be used as
- 14 a basis of finding the judge is not performing.
- That's one of those areas of law. So this
- 16 was made to say nothing in this desire to get --
- 17 to reallocate resources and nothing in the desire
- 18 to get you a fast first hearing should in any way
- impact how you proceed after that, and the side
- 20 corollary that doesn't show is if we find out that
- 21 you're using it as a basis and you articulate as a
- 22 basis, you're in trouble, big trouble, big
- 23 trouble. So it's in a way training.
- Q. Were there judges that had been using
- 25 case completion goals as a justification for

Page 127 providing very short continuances or denying 1 continuances on unaccompanied children cases before this memo went out? I'm not aware of that. The one that Α. brought it to light was actually an adult respondent in Buffalo, New York. It wasn't anywhere near here. But at that point -- and I think a Circuit -- yeah, not I think -- I'm sure a 8 Circuit court judge in a decision relating to 9 continuances, and I don't recall the name, pointed 10 11 it out. And we're like, no, no. 12 Case completion goals are goals. And most case completion goals are not a hundred percent. 13 There's a margin of error understanding that the 14 fundamental fairness -- there's no expectation --15 no judge has ever been told that you must meet 16 this objectives in every single case. It's a way 17 to reinforce and again communicate, stop and 18 provide quidance. 19 Whether it's on rumor as in the example we 20 discussed where somebody brings it your attention 21 or whether you know it's happening, even the rumor 22 is enough that we're going to step in and take an 23 action to stop it. 24

(There was a discussion off the record.)

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- 1 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:
- Q. We were speaking off the record, and I
- 3 wanted to clarify that the conversation we were
- 4 having was primarily focused on the memo as it was
- 5 first issued in September 10, 2014. It was
- 6 reissued in March of 2015, but the timeframe we
- 7 were discussing was really the time period before
- 8 September 2014. Is that fair, Judge Weil?
- 9 MR. SILVIS: His answer was geared
- 10 towards that first date.
- 11 A. I think the language that we've been
- 12 discussing, I don't think that part has been
- 13 changed. So I think my answer would be the same
- 14 with regard to either one of those documents with
- 15 respect to the language.
- 16 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:
- 17 Q. It says you should address concerns
- 18 about this document to the assist chief
- 19 immigration judge. I wanted to understand is
- 20 there a geographical division about that, or would
- 21 that be you regardless of where the case was?
- A. There is a geographical and it moves.
- For example, we just changed them all.
- Q. Can you tell me then, if I give you four
- 25 cities, Seattle, LA, Houston and Miami, can you

Page 129 tell me who the judges are? 1 The assistant chief judge? 2 Α. Ο. Yeah. 3 For Seattle, the permanent one, because we have an acting, is Print Maggard because he is 5 the acting chief judge, but when that is over, he 6 will go back. So as of right now, the acting assistant judge covering Seattle is Stephen 8 9 Griswold. LA? 10 Q. 11 Α. Is Thomas Fong. 12 Ο. Houston? Houston is D.E. Nadkarni. 13 Α. And Miami? Ο. 14 Miami is a Lisa Sukkar. 15 Α. Give me Bloomington, Minnesota. 16 Ο. I think -- that one I'm not sure -- it 17 Α. is with Jill Dufresne. And they're going to 18 realign again. We're going to do that soon. 19 This memo also says in Section IV that 20 judges have no authority to assure custodians who 21 want to come to court with children that they will 22 not get arrested by ICE when they come to court. 23 Um-hum. Α. 24 That's still the EOIR policy I take it? 25 Ο.

1 Α. That is EOIR policy. Can the immigration judge require the 3 custodian's presence in immigration court? They are and nobody is stopping them 5 from doing it. So whether they have the authority or not, I don't know anything again that says expressly they can. I don't know that it says they can't. There is a general catch-all provision in the regulations that allows actions 9 10 consistent with the conduct of proceeding. 11 But basically what you have is the judge's 12 TVPAR obligations to identify victims of trafficking. The judge is worried about child 13 14 The kids that were showing up with 15 suitcases with no adults, the kids that were 16 showing up with signs of abuse, the judges to 17 ensure the safety of the children were ordering people to show up. And, of course, many people 18 19 did not want to show up, parents, custodians, 20 aunts or uncles, because they were undocumented. 21 So the judges were making representations, 22 and we don't have the authority to tell DHS who 23 they can or cannot put into proceedings. 2.4 I'm not aware -- we do have policies on where 25 and when DHS can arrest people in our space, but I

- 1 think it was a promise that we didn't really have
- 2 the ability to take action on. And while it was a
- 3 noble attempt to protect the children and see who
- 4 they were really living with, we had to put a stop
- 5 to it because it's an authority we don't have.
- 6 O. Let's switch to topic ten, which is what
- 7 I'll call the asylum initial jurisdiction rule.
- 8 Can you explain the rule?
- 9 A. Yeah. Initial jurisdiction over asylum
- 10 applications for unaccompanied children lies with
- 11 USCIS.
- 12 O. What does an immigration judge have to
- do to comply with that rule?
- 14 A. The immigration judge -- if the
- immigration judge -- if initial jurisdiction lies
- 16 with USCIS, they have to give USCIS an opportunity
- 17 to adjudicate the application. It is one of the
- 18 topics I specifically addressed with the judges.
- 19 And their practices vary. For example, in Los
- 20 Angeles, they're continuing the case to allow that
- 21 to occur.
- In Texas they are administratively closing
- 23 the case to allow that to occur. And the reason,
- 24 to the extent you're interested in that, is
- 25 because the timeframe that USCIS is adjudicating

- 1 these in Los Angeles is sufficiently short and
- 2 regular that the judge knows if I continue the
- 3 case to this date, they're getting a response
- 4 back. And so continuance is appropriate. And
- 5 then nobody has to file a motion to recalendar,
- 6 and it saves resources, and the judge can track
- 7 what's going on.
- 8 In Texas the state courts will not accept
- 9 jurisdiction. Well, that's an SIJ case. But it
- 10 relates because the amount of time may not be as
- 11 regular.
- 12 Q. I understand.
- 13 A. So the judges are administratively
- 14 closing. Then the parties come back, and an
- 15 answer is provided.
- Q. And the particular mechanism of how the
- judge should give the give USCIS the opportunity
- 18 to exercise its jurisdiction is left to individual
- 19 judges?
- A. Right. How they choose to stop while
- 21 USCIS exercises their jurisdiction changes as does
- the level of oversight to make sure that it's been
- 23 filed and that it's pending. Some judges may want
- 24 to pull in a status conference. Others will just
- 25 set it out.

- Q. Does the immigration judge have to tell the child about the option of filing an asylum application with the asylum office?
- A. An immigration judge has an obligation
 under Circuit law to make a reasonable relief
 inquiry. So if an immigration judge inquires and
 determines that the respondent does have a fear
 and it's an unaccompanied alien child, then the
 immigration judge, and our training is, should
 stop the proceeding to have the I-589 completed
 and to allow USCIS to adjudicate the application.
- Q. If a judge didn't do that, would that be an appropriate occasion for a warning or discipline like you described earlier today?

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A. The problem in it is that there's some Circuit law regarding who is unaccompanied and who is not, for example in the Fifth Circuit. So our guidance and our instructions is USCIS stamps it UC on the notice to appear, and that is binding on you as the judge and that the child then is the UC forever and the practice applies.

In the training agenda that you identified in
April, we had USCIS come in and ICE on one of the
panels and a state court judge who is SIJ -- I
forgot who the third person was -- to express,

- 1 hey, this is our interpretation of our
- 2 jurisdiction and what we're going to accept and
- 3 our reading and ICE saying, and this is what we're
- 4 not going to oppose because this is our reading.
- The problem was complicated. You have some
- 6 Circuits, the Fifth Circuit in I think at least
- 7 two at least unpublished decisions has drawn an
- 8 interpretation of who is unaccompanied that is not
- 9 necessarily consistent with our guidance or what
- 10 USCIS is willing to take, and that's created a
- 11 problem as to whether USCIS has jurisdiction or
- 12 not.
- Q. I take it the problem you're referring
- 14 to is whether a child has been reunited with one
- or both parents can still be properly classified
- 16 as unaccompanied?
- 17 A. Yes. That's one of the factors. There
- 18 can be age out factors. Our quidance is this is
- 19 not a dispute -- if the parties are not in dispute
- and the NTA is marked, then please let the child
- 21 have their opportunity. If it's granted, the case
- 22 goes away and we were effective because we're not
- using docket times to adjudicate matters not in
- 24 dispute. And if it comes back, it comes back.
- 25 But you have Circuit law that seems to narrow...

In a jurisdiction where there is 1 conflicting Circuit law as you describe, then you 2 would not then be disciplining or otherwise 3 instructing judges to ignore that law and instead utilize a definition that would otherwise be 5 employed; is that right? 6 What I'm telling them is our policy is 7 adjudicate matters in dispute. I'm not telling them violate the law of the Circuit. 9 believe that's your Circuit's law -- I can't tell 10 a judge to violate the Circuit law, and I'm not 11 going to tell them as a matter of law. 12 But our general policy, and I think it's in 13 some of the documents that I reviewed today, is if 14 it's a matter that you don't have jurisdiction 15 over, initial jurisdiction, which I guess that's 16 part of the legal question, and if it's not in 17 dispute, we don't really need to be spending our 18 docket time on it. So I kind of stated a view in 19 20 a training, but I haven't said -- I'm not going to tell a judge and then have a Circuit Court judge, 21 you know, no, they're not published, so there's 22 some leeway. I'm not going to go out there and 23 look like I issued a rule that violates Circuit 24 25 law.

1 Ο. And you are aware that there are immigration judges who are proceeding in cases even where under the department's view of the 3 statute jurisdiction should lie in the asylum? I'm aware there were some. Α. I'm aware some have changed their practices after the April 7 training. I looked specifically into the three locations, but I do think there are people that believe that USCIS does not have jurisdiction in 10 some of these cases. I don't know how many. 11 We seemed to shift away from it, but I can't 12 specifically state that there's not somebody out 13 there that's still doing it. I think on that one, 1.4 I'm pushing the envelope, but I've stopped short. 15 You're a good man. 16 Α. Is that a finding of fact? 17 (Exhibit 15 was marked.) 18 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM: 19 0. Let me hand you what we'll mark as 15. This does not have a Bates number even though it 20 21 came in discovery. It is a Memorandum to the 22 Asylum Office Staff from Ted Kim, acting chief of 23 the asylum division. It's stamped May 28, 2013. 24 Are you familiar with this document? I have heard of a USCIS memo

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Α.

I'm not.

- that interprets their jurisdiction. I don't know
- 2 that this is the one or there may be subsequent
- 3 ones that overrule or change this one.
- Q. I'll represent to you that this memo
- 5 refers to a change in the classification
- 6 determination process for unaccompanied children.
- 7 Are you aware of there having been a change
- 8 in the classification determination process that
- 9 led to the rule you described earlier where the
- immigration court is to treat the prior agency's
- 11 designation as dispositive?
- MR. SILVIS: I'll object to topic.
- A. I'm aware there's a dispute. I don't
- 14 remember whether it was with USCIS internally, and
- 15 I don't know that this is the latest version, the
- 16 earlier version. But that's exactly why we had
- 17 USCIS come in person to our training to give their
- 18 current version. And I don't think since April 23
- 19 when the training occurred that it changed.
- 20 So I think they've heard it from the horse's
- 21 mouth as to what we will accept jurisdiction over.
- I know there was conflict, but I'm not aware of
- 23 the particular memos and the intricacies.
- 24 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:
- Q. You may not know the answer to this, but

- 1 I'll ask you anyway. Do you know what led to the
- 2 change in the classification determination process
- 3 that kind of gave rise to the dispute that you
- 4 were talking about in the first place?
- 5 MR. SILVIS: Objection. Topic.
- 6 A. I don't. I assume you mean why USCIS...
- 7 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:
- 8 Q. Right.
- 9 A. I don't know. I don't. My
- 10 understanding is that the interpretation was a
- 11 broader interpretation, and that's what we
- 12 encouraged the judges to go with. They said if
- USCIS is willing to take it, let them take it.
- Q. Are there safeguards other than the ones
- that we have discussed today which are available
- 16 for -- strike that.
- I have another set of questions I want to ask
- 18 you actually. We talked about Friend of the Court
- 19 and you had referred to that earlier.
- 20 A. Yes.
- Q. Does that exist in all of the dockets
- where there are juvenile dockets?
- A. I don't know. Friend of the Court is
- 24 another one that's not -- there is a memo, I know
- 25 it was produced, with guidance regarding Friend of

- 1 the Court. But in a way, you have Friend of the
- 2 Court and you have Friend of the Court.
- What I mean by that is there are some formal
- 4 programs where we're sending notices and there's
- 5 organizations, and that's really their -- they
- 6 make their living acting as Friend of the Court.
- 7 But there also could be a law student that steps
- 8 in.
- 9 So there's really a range of people, and I
- think it's open for interpretation, as we talked
- 11 about earlier, as to whether a family member could
- 12 somehow serve as a Friend of the Court. I mean,
- it's a very broad line of functions that that
- 14 person can perform, and it's not really defined
- 15 who can do it and who cannot.
- I think in every single court the judge has
- the ability, if there's an aunt or guardian ad
- 18 litem. We see an aunt or somebody that comes up
- 19 that says, may I speak to you as a Friend of the
- 20 Court.
- We saw that very, very frequently with regard
- 22 to updates on reunification efforts of ORR and
- 23 where the child and ultimately the immigration
- 24 case was going to end. So there probably is --
- there's the ability in every court to allow

- 1 somebody to speak as Friend of the Court, and then
- 2 there's some much more formal programs as well.
- Q. The formal programs, I take it then by
- 4 your answer, do not exist in every location where
- 5 there's a juvenile docket; is that correct?
- 6 A. I don't know the answer. I don't know
- 7 where there are and where there's not. I didn't
- 8 prepare on that. But I do know there are in the
- 9 three cities that I did ask. And they all have
- 10 pretty formal Friend of the Court programs. But
- 11 beyond that, I don't know for other locations.
- 12 Q. Do you know if even in those cities they
- are present in all the cases involving
- 14 unrepresented children?
- 15 A. The number is very, very high in those
- locations. There's coordination among them, but I
- 17 can't say for sure that every single case does.
- 18 They take certain days. So it's possible they may
- not be there for one hearing where you're
- 20 continued for an attorney, but they might be there
- 21 the next time.
- What's happening is these cases and with the
- 23 number of continuances, people are showing up
- 24 multiple, multiple times. I'm sure that
- information you've seen. The cases are not

- 1 proceeding quickly through the system. So it's
- very possible that one time there is, one time
- 3 there is not.
- Q. How do you know the number is very high?
- 5 A. The judges told me that KIND is
- 6 virtually there on almost every juvenile -- and I
- 7 say almost because I don't want to represent every
- 8 one. Maybe it is every one. But KIND is there on
- 9 the juvenile docket day in Seattle almost all the
- 10 time.
- 11 They explained to me, again, the same for --
- 12 California is actually the one that's sending the
- dockets, and they have, I think, five clinical
- 14 programs as well as the regular Friends of the
- 15 Courts. I think it's Catholic Charities. I can't
- 16 remember the specific names in Texas.
- Q. But your understanding that it's a high
- 18 number of the cases, that comes from the judges
- 19 having told you that it's a high number of cases?
- 20 A. The judges presiding over the UAC cases
- 21 are saying to me they're appearing. This is our
- 22 practice, this is who it is, and this is how often
- 23 they're showing up. But they did fall short of
- 24 saying in every single case.
- Q. You said there were a variety of people

- 1 who can serve in this function. So the
- 2 department's position is that any adult who is
- accompanying a child can be asked by the judge to
- 4 serve in a Friend of the Court role?
- 5 A. Right. It's very similar to what we did
- 6 in the mental competency cases where we said
- 7 pretty much anybody can be indicia that there
- 8 might be an issue. So we laxed the rules.
- 9 So you may have somebody come and speak up,
- and I'm not sure in every case the judge is going
- 11 to dub them and say I now appoint you Friend of
- the Court. There's no entry of appearance for
- 13 them that's in there.
- But I think the option to have one is there,
- 15 but the function is going to vary greatly in what
- 16 role they perform. And the role may be just to go
- out and look for an attorney. It may not actually
- be to speak up or do really anything in court.
- 19 For example, KIND is one of the Friends of
- the Court. That's really what they're doing.
- 21 They're trying to screen the cases and refer the
- 22 cases to pro bono representation if it's
- 23 available.
- It can be very, very informal to the point
- it's not even formally stated on the record to a

Page 143 very formal process. 1 MR. ARULANANTHAM: Let's go off again. Actually can we take a break. (Recess from 4:06 p.m. to 4:17 p.m.) BY MR. ARULANANTHAM: I want to go back briefly to what you Ο. were telling me earlier about the asylum initial jurisdiction issue. I asked you what is the immigration judge's obligation, and I thought I 9 understood you to say they have an obligation to 10 inform the child of this sort of option for 11 12 relief; is that right. In all cases, the Circuit courts have 13 held that an immigration judge must do a 14 reasonable relief inquiry and then advise the 15 16 respondent of the right to apply for relief. they fail to do so, the Circuits have found it 17 reversible error. 18 In the asylum context, it's pretty simple. 19 You ask, are you afraid to go home? Do you have a 20 fear? If the answer is yes, and it can be 21 interpreted very broadly whether it's an adult or 22 child, at that point, that's when the judge would 23 look and say, is this UAC? Who has jurisdiction? 24 My understanding from speaking to the judges 25

- the way it generally works -- they vary -- they'll
- 2 give the I-589 application and then provide the
- 3 child -- as I say, in a very high percentage of
- 4 these cases in the cities I spoke to, there is an
- 5 adult present -- if not, then everyone isn't
- 6 requiring it -- whether legally or illegally. And
- then DHS provides the instructions for filing the
- 8 I-589.
- 9 The judges, some of them, what they're doing
- is tracking to make sure that it's been received.
- 11 They'll have them come back in. As I say, in the
- 12 beginning they were admin closing. We're starting
- 13 to see less admin closures, and the judges are
- 14 asking for receipt or some proof that the
- application has actually been filed. I think one
- 16 asked for the green return receipt, but that's not
- 17 everybody.
- 18 If they're not admin closing and they're
- 19 continuing -- there's going to be a certain point
- when they're continuing, because they know how
- long USCIS locally is taking to adjudicate it,
- that they're going to say, hey, wait a minute, why
- is there no answer in this case. There are
- 24 different degrees to what extent they're
- 25 babysitting that filing.

- 1 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:
- Q. Let's say it has gone on for a while and
- 3 there isn't any proof of filing with the asylum
- 4 office. What can an immigration judge do then?
- 5 A. I talked to the judge about that, and
- 6 there's basically kind of three options. One,
- 7 they come in and they have a receipt that it's
- 8 been filed. Two, they have the application, but
- 9 they don't have the receipt and they indicated
- 10 they would set it for another master calendar.
- 11 And, three, they have nothing.
- 12 At that point I think you have to give the
- 13 application and talk to them and find out why they
- 14 haven't done it. It varies.
- 15 Q. Eventually does the judge have authority
- 16 to go ahead and proceed and decide the asylum case
- in the removal hearing?
- 18 A. Yes. The person -- there were some
- 19 cases where even with representation -- I have
- 20 trouble figuring out what the rationale was -- but
- 21 where they actually waived the initial
- jurisdiction with USCIS. I can't imagine why
- you'd not want to take a second bite of the apple.
- Q. What about unrepresented cases where the
- 25 judge has given some amount of time and there has

- 1 still been no adjudication by USCIS and perhaps no
- 2 filing with USCIS.
- 3 Does the judge also have the authority to
- 4 decide the case, the asylum issue in the removal
- 5 hearing at that point?
- 6 A. I think they have authority to make a
- 7 decision. Whether they proceed and begin to say,
- 8 okay, it's not with USCIS and begin to proceed in
- 9 an asylum claim, whether they deem it waived or
- 10 abandoned, I think that's going to vary from fact
- 11 to fact, and that's going to be up to the
- 12 particular judge and who is present.
- 13 Again, the idea is that you have -- at that
- 14 point you're hoping they've had LOP, LOPC, Know
- 15 Your Rights, Friend of the Court. You can talk to
- to the person who shows up. And that's why I
- think it's important to know what is in your
- 18 toolbox and what you're going to do based on the
- 19 particular case and figure it out.
- 20 Q. There are some parts of the country and
- 21 some individuals, some children in all parts of
- 22 the country where none of those options
- 23 functionally are available; right?
- 24 A. You mean where there's no --
- Q. There's no Friend of the Court, there's

- 1 no LOPC, there's no pro bono representation. In
- 2 this particular case that exists; correct?
- A. I mean, I can't say for sure because I
- 4 didn't check. And in that case, I think -- in
- 5 other words, I don't know who has -- well, I know
- 6 there's a limited number of sites for LOPC. I
- 7 think the number is around 13, 14, but I could be
- 8 wrong. And I also know there's a hotline.
- 9 Where there's Friend of the Court, formal,
- informal, I can't tell you every single tool
- 11 that's in every toolbox in every particular
- region. But they would have the ability to reach
- out to the Office of Legal Access Programs for
- 14 some assistance.
- 15 Q. Who would?
- 16 A. The immigration judge. Because they do
- 17 have a legal service list, and if that reaches a
- 18 dead end -- we talked about the fact the child
- 19 advocate is not performing that role. I don't
- 20 know that that's something you would pull out of
- 21 the toolbox at that point.
- But where they feel there's a really
- 23 compelling case, either the judge would have the
- 24 ability to call the Office of Legal Access
- 25 Programs and say, hey, look, I have this case, we

- 1 need some help and see if --
- Q. What do you mean when you say "we need
- 3 some help"? What does help refer to there?
- 4 A. Some assistance for the respondent. I
- 5 have an asylum claim. Is there somebody that can
- 6 help fill out the application or represent the
- 7 respondent? What they would do is generally reach
- 8 out to the LOPC contractors to see if they can do
- 9 anything, reach out to some of the Friends of the
- 10 Court to see if they can, or their independent
- 11 network and resources to see if there's somebody
- 12 that can step in.
- Q. Do you know if OLAP -- I'm asking
- 14 because you raised the issue -- do you know if
- OLAP gets calls like that on a regular basis?
- A. I don't know about a regular basis, but
- I know I have told judges to reach out to them or
- 18 referred and said this is an appropriate case for
- 19 referral.
- Q. But you're not saying for every child
- 21 who is unrepresented in immigration proceedings
- 22 that one of the representation options or
- 23 nonrepresentational options that you've described
- is available; you're not saying that it's
- universal and that's true for every child, are

- 1 you?
- A. That every single case is going to get a
- 3 legal representative or Friend of the Court?
- 4 O. Or LOPC representation even.
- 5 A. I don't know which -- I think the best
- 6 way I can say it is I don't know what's in each
- 7 court's toolbox. I can't say today that every
- 8 toolbox is full, and I can't say that there's
- 9 somebody who has a toolbox empty. I just don't
- 10 know the answer.
- 11 Part of what we're doing is we're trying to
- 12 encourage and work to make the toolbox as full as
- possible, to give the judges the most resources
- 14 available when assessing what safeguard and
- 15 protection is necessary.
- 16 O. So assume then that you do have a
- 17 situation of a child who, say, is given a I-589,
- 18 but doesn't have access to any kind of either
- 19 representational or nonrepresentational assistance
- and is told by the immigration judge to go to the
- 21 asylum office. What if a child doesn't speak
- 22 English, what should the child do in that
- 23 instance? What is the obligation of the
- immigration judge in that instance?
- 25 MR. SILVIS: Objection. Topic.

- 1 A. You're saying unaccompanied,
- 2 unrepresented.
- 3 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:
- Q. Doesn't speak English.
- 5 A. Doesn't speak English.
- Q. No LOPC.
- 7 A. No LOPC. The judge is going to have to
- 8 dig deep in their toolbox. There are sometimes we
- 9 have a couple of tools at headquarters as an ACIJ
- 10 for vulnerable populations or the Office of legal
- 11 Access Programs. Sometimes we have networks and
- 12 know people and may be able to find a tool that
- 13 they don't have. But, no, I'm not saying -- I
- 14 can't promise.
- We can do the best -- and I think that would
- 16 be an appropriate case where the judge would say,
- 17 I can't find an appropriate safeguard or
- 18 protection. Stop the case. I'm going to
- 19 articulate everything, either the lack of tools or
- 20 why the tools I have are insufficient and all my
- 21 efforts and I cannot conduct a fundamentally fair
- 22 hearing and they should stop.
- Q. Are you aware of cases where judges have
- 24 done that?
- A. I'm not aware one way or the other. I

- 1 know what the training is, but I haven't asked the
- judges, have you done that. That's what we've
- 3 told them to do. But also I'm not getting from
- 4 the judges that I spoke to really empty toolboxes.
- 5 Everybody seems to have some tools available.
- 6 Ultimately, I think it also falls -- there's
- 7 a lot of -- it falls a lot on the judge. It
- 8 makes -- we talked about the fact that these tools
- 9 help me be more effective and more efficient.
- 10 But it could happen. You could admin close.
- 11 The instruction we give is if you cannot conduct a
- 12 fundamentally fair hearing, you may not proceed.
- 13 You have to decide are you going to continue? Are
- 14 you going to admin close? Are you going to
- 15 terminate? That's their remedy available.
- 16 And it works both ways, because on the one
- 17 hand, you don't get to the stage that you can
- order somebody removed, but also you don't get to
- 19 the stage where you can grant relief necessarily.
- 20 You can't proceed.
- 21 If there's no safequard or protection and the
- 22 person cannot perform the functions required for a
- 23 fundamentally fair hearing, you have to stop
- 24 proceedings and instructions.
- Q. Are you aware of whether EOIR is

- 1 tracking whether judges have closed cases on the
- basis that you're talking about?
- A. There's no way in the case management
- 4 system to track the basis. The other problem
- 5 you're going to have with it is you also don't
- 6 know with prosecutorial discretion that -- some of
- 7 those cases where it's not available may be closed
- 8 for that reason. So there's no way to know why
- 9 the case particularly stopped.
- 10 Q. You don't track whether a closure is for
- 11 prosecutorial discretion as opposed to other
- 12 reasons?
- A. I'm not sure if there's a field for
- 14 that. I'm just using that as an example of the
- 15 fact that -- the computer says the case was
- 16 terminated, would show a completion, a termination
- on this date, but it wouldn't establish a basis.
- 18 There's no articulation as to the legal analysis
- 19 that resulted.
- Q. Are there safeguards other than the ones
- 21 that we have discussed today -- this is actually
- 22 the 16th topic -- that are geared toward
- 23 protecting the interests of children in
- 24 immigration court?
- 25 A. There definitely are.

- Q. What are they?
- A. Really I think, and this is what we
- 3 teach the judges, there's an infinite set of
- 4 safeguards and protections, and you have to be --
- 5 you really have to consider the individual person
- 6 and their functions. Sometimes it requires you to
- 7 be creative because, as I said, sometimes the
- 8 inability to perform -- I'm sorry -- the inability
- 9 to proceed in many cases can help the respondent
- if the charges are true and there's no relief.
- But they can hurt the respondent if there is a
- 12 relief available.
- So you really, I think, need to look -- there
- 14 are many things. For example, if a child has ADD,
- 15 you're going to alter the proceeding. You're
- 16 going to do small chunks. You're going to give
- 17 specific tasks. The way you speak to a child,
- 18 whether -- it's very common. We talked about the
- 19 placement.
- I've seen the judges many times will start
- 21 off the proceedings by chatting about is the child
- 22 still in school, are they playing soccer, how did
- 23 they do in their last game. As one of the judges
- 24 says, I'm a grandma. So I talk to them like a
- 25 grandma. They're careful to be friendly, to try

- to not use really legal terms.
- Q. Is there any evidence that the set of
- 3 behaviors you're talking about has an effect on
- 4 the outcome?
- 5 A. I mean, there's nobody that's done a
- 6 study. As I said, every case is different. So
- 7 there's no one set of behaviors. It's not rubber
- 8 stamping that goes in every case. I may repeat
- 9 things over and over, my explanations.
- 10 Having done a docket for over 15 years with a
- 11 different population, you're constantly changing
- 12 and tailoring and monitoring and watching and
- asking questions and asking to explain back. So
- 14 there's really --
- Q. Did you do a children's docket?
- A. I did not, no. I did a detained adult
- 17 male docket. The point being is that we really
- have kind of endless ways that we tweak things, we
- 19 change things. I've had respondents where I give
- 20 them the I-589 and ask them to fill out as much as
- 21 they can knowing that there's no one to help them;
- 22 again detained.
- I guess arguably a child could have another
- 24 child help them in the shelter, but give me
- 25 something on the application so I can move

- 1 forward, just something so I can mark it as an
- 2 exhibit, and then I'll ask the questions.
- You have to be creative. You have to look
- 4 for safeguards and protections. Some are very
- 5 formal. Some are available.
- Q. Are there any other safeguards or
- 7 protections that are programmatic that have a
- 8 name?
- 9 A. Yeah. We work with the ABA to do a kind
- 10 of Know Your Rights for children.
- 11 O. Does that still exist?
- 12 A. Yeah.
- 13 Q. And where?
- 14 A. I'm sorry. It's not the -- the ABA was,
- 15 I believe, for adults. There's a Know Your Rights
- 16 Introduction to Immigration court video. There's
- 17 self-help materials.
- 18 Q. Know Your Rights for children, that
- 19 still exists?
- 20 A. Yeah, it does. EOIR did not develop it.
- 21 I think we had input into it.
- Q. Who developed it?
- 23 A. I can picture the face of it. I don't
- 24 know.
- Q. Is it ORR?

- 1 A. I don't know.
- Q. Do you know where it exists?
- A. I don't know if I have copy. I don't
- 4 think I have a copy. I think I lent it to
- 5 somebody.
- 6 Q. Do you know if it exists -- like what
- 7 cities it exists in, like where it operates?
- 8 A. No, I don't. And I'm just using it as
- 9 an example of something that -- you could do a
- 10 resource, self-help materials, like different
- 11 programs. We're working to try to develop some
- 12 self-help materials. I'm not personally working
- 13 on that.
- You have to be creative. And where things
- don't exist, you have to try to create or work
- with state courts, work with others.
- 17 Q. The self-help materials you're talking
- about, those are in development or they're already
- implemented or operational?
- A. I don't have that information myself. I
- 21 think that would probably be closer to Steve Lang.
- Q. Are you aware of any other programmatic
- 23 safeguards or initiatives?
- A. Yeah. I think this is not one that is
- 25 necessarily EOIR, but when you say programmatic, I

- 1 have sat in the shelters and listened to the
- 2 children's Know Your Rights presentations,
- 3 watching children dial on a Playskool phone the
- 4 immigration court asking to speak to someone in
- 5 English and explain that they changed their
- 6 address.
- 7 I've watched them work with children in
- 8 shelters to fill out change of addresses and
- 9 change of venues.
- 10 Q. You're talking about shelter specific to
- 11 Know Your Rights?
- 12 A. Yeah, in the shelter, so that before
- 13 they get to the court, they know what to expect in
- 14 court. I think it's a continuum. We have to
- 15 provide as much information available so that we
- 16 know it's not lack of knowledge. And then the
- 17 question is, what are they able to do with the
- 18 knowledge and are there things, steps.
- 19 I can't come up with every single one. But
- 20 every single proceeding I'm going to adapt based
- 21 upon my interaction and what I'm working with and
- looking for what are the shortfalls and what tools
- 23 I have. I'm sure I'm going to leave off something
- 24 that's available, but I'm trying to be as
- 25 inclusive as possible.

- 1 Q. The shelter specific programs, do you
- 2 know if those exist in all the shelters?
- 3 A. I've observed some of them in south
- 4 Texas. But I don't know. That's not -- it's not
- 5 our contract. I know many of them call them
- 6 Charla.
- 7 Q. Is this an EOIR program you're talking
- 8 about?
- 9 A. I assume it is. I forgot who
- 10 specifically was doing that. But I was really
- 11 impressed.
- Q. Do you know about outcome data as to
- 13 this, the shelter programs?
- 14 A. I don't know the location. I don't know
- 15 who is doing it. I just know I've observed it and
- it helps to educate the respondents so when they
- 17 come to court, they have some knowledge. And then
- if they do get explanations from a judge, it
- 19 builds on itself. It all helps.
- Q. I realize you may forget things, human
- 21 nature. Is there anything else you can think of
- 22 at the moment, another program that's a safequard
- 23 geared toward protecting the interests of children
- in immigration court?
- 25 A. Other than what's in the documents we've

- 1 already talked about, nothing is coming right now
- 2 to me. Well, did we talk about the hotline?
- 3 There's a hotline. There's an LOPC hotline that
- 4 people can call into. So if your location doesn't
- 5 have an LOP presentation, you can call in and they
- 6 can do that by telephone.
- 7 O. How do people learn about that?
- 8 A. The immigration judges will -- some
- 9 places they have it. Some people miss it. It's
- 10 based on location.
- 11 Q. So the immigration judges --
- 12 A. Would advise of the availability.
- 13 Q. Are you aware of immigration judges
- 14 advising people about that LOPC hotline in parts
- of the country where there is no LOPC in that
- 16 court?
- 17 A. I've heard from Steve it happens. I'm
- 18 not personally aware. There was something else.
- 19 There's something else I just lost that one of the
- judges told me they had available.
- 21 O. I'll ask you another question. Are
- there any cases involving children where the only
- 23 way to ensure that the child gets a fair hearing
- is either to stop the proceeding or provide
- 25 counsel?

- 1 MR. SILVIS: Objection. Topic.
- 2 A. As I said, you have to look at each
- 3 individual case and assess each individual case to
- 4 make a determination.
- 5 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:
- 6 Q. Can you imagine cases where that would
- 7 be true?
- 8 A. I can imagine a lot of things. I'm
- 9 going back to what I said. You have to look at
- 10 each individual case, and you have to assess the
- ability of the child to function, and you have to
- 12 look and make the determination in the case.
- Q. Can you imagine a case where there isn't
- an attorney and the case is very complex, the
- 15 child is very young and capacity is very limited
- where there's no safeguard, short of
- 17 representation, that would allow the child to get
- a fair hearing beside obviously stopping the case?
- 19 A. I don't know.
- 20 O. You don't know?
- A. You're asking me to speculate about a
- 22 fact pattern that -- I've already told you that a
- 23 large majority, almost -- a large majority have an
- 24 adult present. I've told you about all the
- 25 resources we have. I don't know whether -- in

- 1 those cases, in every case, an immigration judge
- 2 can slow down and spend a lot of time and continue
- 3 the case.
- 4 I've told you I have trained three year olds
- 5 and four year olds in immigration law. You can do
- 6 a fair hearing. It's going to take you a lot of
- 7 time. But I really think that a great alternative
- 8 to terminating a case for a child who may be
- 9 eligible for relief where there's no counsel is
- 10 proceed very slowly, very carefully, and I'm going
- 11 to tap every single resource I can to see if I can
- 12 get the some help.
- Q. By help you mean counsel?
- 14 A. All of the tools that I mentioned,
- anybody to show up that can assist, whether it be
- 16 a Friend of the Court, whether it be a family
- 17 member, whether it be somebody from a church,
- 18 anybody that was willing to step in, I'm going to
- 19 do that if I can.
- 20 I told you I think counsel allows me to be
- 21 effective. They allow me to be efficient, but I
- 22 can trudge on. It's going to take me a lot of
- 23 hearing time, but you can do it. You can do it.
- O. Do you think you can have a fair hearing
- 25 with an unrepresented four year old in an

- 1 application for asylum?
- MR. SILVIS: Objection. Topic
- A. It will take me a long, long, long, long
- 4 time because I'm going to have to use every skill
- 5 and every technique and every bit of training.
- 6 Again, we're assuming my toolbox is empty. But it
- 7 will be hours and hours and days and days and
- 8 continuances, but I can get to make a finding of
- 9 fact that is not clearly erroneous. I can make a
- 10 conclusions of law in the case and then make a
- 11 determination as to the case.
- 12 That's the role of the immigration judge, is
- to identify reasonable forms of relief, and my
- obligation is to develop the record. And we're
- used to and part of the training is working with
- 16 very difficult respondents, whether it's due to a
- mental disorder, an uncooperative person, a child.
- 18 Good attorneys and good judges are used to working
- 19 with difficult respondents.
- 20 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:
- Q. So what if a child's only relief is
- 22 special immigrant juvenile status and they're four
- years old and there's nobody to litigate the case
- in state court. How can the immigration judge
- 25 give that child a fair hearing?

- 1 MR. SILVIS: Objection.
- 2 A. That is not a problem. As a matter of
- 3 fact, I had a meeting in Atlanta with stakeholders
- 4 where the problem is there's such an abundance of
- 5 resources and so many large firms -- this has
- 6 become a cause celeb, as one of the judges called
- 7 it, with kids. So many big firms -- this is a big
- 8 issue.
- 9 A lot of people have taken a lot of time and
- 10 effort. I have worked personally and been on the
- 11 stage at the ABA because the ABA has taken the
- 12 situation of children on as a humanitarian cause.
- 13 That reminds me. Make a note. I remembered the
- 14 thing I forgot earlier.
- 15 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:
- 16 Q. When you say cause, you mean the cause
- of trying to find legal representation for
- 18 children to pursue SIJ applications? Is that what
- 19 you're talking about?
- 20 A. We talked about pro bono and immigration
- 21 court, but there are also pro bono resources in
- the state court. As you're aware, just because
- you're competent in one doesn't mean you're
- 24 competent in the other. So sometimes you have
- 25 both working together.

- What we found is that many times, there's so
- 2 many people trying to assist on the state court
- 3 side that one of the biggest problems was
- 4 coordinating all the resources and making sure
- 5 that all of these attorneys and firms are -- who's
- 6 going to train and who's going to manage the cases
- 7 and all those things.
- Q. If there is no legal representation --
- 9 MR. SILVIS: Are you finished? I think
- 10 you were still answering.
- 11 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:
- 12 Q. If there is no legal representation on
- the state court side, how would the child obtain
- 14 the predicate order?
- 15 A. There will be legal representation.
- 16 That's not an issue for us. We can --
- 17 Q. You're saying --
- 18 MR. SILVIS: You got to the let him
- 19 finish.
- 20 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:
- Q. I'm sorry.
- A. All I would need to do in that case, for
- 23 the most part -- and I haven't done it because it
- 24 hasn't been relevant -- is if we reached out to
- 25 Kids in Need of Defense and their extensive

- 1 network and firms and large firms who have offered
- 2 to help, I don't think that it's going to be an
- 3 issue to get the state predicate order.
- 4 Q. So your testimony is there are no
- 5 children who are unable get special immigrant
- 6 juvenile status due to the absence of
- 7 representation to take their cases in state court?
- 8 MR. SILVIS: Objection. Topic.
- 9 A. That was not my testimony. As you said,
- 10 there are not. What I'm telling you is if it
- 11 comes to the attention of the judge that the
- respondent may be eligible for SIJ and there needs
- to be some assistance, that we have really ample
- 14 resources in our toolbox to be available to get
- 15 somebody to go into the state court.
- 16 Keep in mind when you're talking about going
- into state court, the state courts are not
- 18 adjudicating this for the purpose of making
- 19 findings of fact and conclusions of law for
- 20 immigration purposes. They're adjudicating this
- 21 because somebody is saying that the child is
- 22 abandoned, neglected or abused.
- 23 So usually on the social side, there is
- 24 somebody that is involved in the case of that
- 25 child. I'm confident if it comes to the attention

- of the judge, that we have ample tools and
- 2 resources to get that through the state court
- 3 process.
- 4 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:
- 5 Q. By leveraging pro bono resources?
- 6 A. By leveraging if that's needed. I mean,
- 7 the question is what is needed. What do you need
- 8 to do to get the case through the state, resources
- 9 in general to get the petition in front of the
- 10 state court.
- 11 Q. You had forgotten something. Then you
- 12 remembered it.
- 13 A. This is somewhat minor, but there was a
- 14 point, and that was that one thing we do also
- is -- you were asking about other safeguards and
- 16 protections.
- One thing we do, we're pretty active in
- 18 conducting mock hearings to train parties, to
- 19 train Friends of the Court, to train pro bono
- 20 representatives, and also allowing our court space
- 21 to be used for that.
- 22 Another thing is that if individuals have
- 23 particular handouts or things they want or things
- to be posted or to use our pro bono room, many
- times, for example, they will want to screen

- 1 people at the end of the hearings and do intake.
- 2 And we will allow our space and our courts to be
- used to do that, and the judges will step off the
- 4 bench. That's something else to provide -- to
- 5 enhance, not only just to identify the resource,
- 6 but what can we do to encourage or enhance or do
- 7 that.
- 8 The other thing is by scheduling the juvenile
- 9 dockets, because the whole purpose of that is to
- 10 conserve resources, to not be pulling the child
- 11 out of school, to allow the Friends of the Court
- to show up on a specific day and not have all off
- the resources we do have spending their time on
- 14 the road rather than in court or preparing cases.
- 15 So those are both things that we have that I
- 16 can recall, but also ways that we take to try to
- 17 enhance the effectiveness of our resources.
- 18 (There was a discussion off the record.)
- 19 MR. ARULANANTHAM: We will pass the
- 20 witness.
- MR. SILVIS: We don't have any
- 22 questions.
- MR. ARULANANTHAM: I think we're done
- 24 then.
- Same stipulation that you'll have 30 days to

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Page 168
       read and sign?
 1
 2
                  MR. SILVIS: Yes.
                  (Whereupon, at 4:51 p.m., the taking of
 3
       the instant deposition ceased.)
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Page 169 1 CERTIFICATE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: I, Ann Medis, Registered Professional Reporter and Notary Public, hereby certify the witness, HONORABLE JACK H. WEIL, was by me first duly sworn to testify to the truth, that the foregoing deposition was taken at the time and place stated herein, and that the said deposition 9 was recorded stenographically by me and then 10 reduced to printing under my direction, and 11 12 constitutes a true record of the testimony given by said witness. 13 I certify the inspection, reading and signing 14 15 of said deposition were NOT waived by counsel for 16 the respective parties and by the witness. 17 I certify I am not a relative or employee of 18 any of the parties, or a relative or employee of 19 either counsel, and I am in no way interested 20 directly or indirectly in this action. 21 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my 22 hand and affixed my seal of office this 29th day 23 of October, 2015. 24 ann Medis 25

		Page	170
1	TRANSPERFECT DEPOSITION SERVICES		
2	216 East 45th Street		
3	Suite 903 New York, New York 10017		
4	212.400.8845		
5	ERRATA SHEET		
6	CASE: J.E.F.M., et al., v LYNCH, et al. DATE: October 15, 2015		
7	WITNESS: HONORABLE JACK H. WEIL		
8	Page Line Change and reason for change:		
9		-	
10			
11	·	•	
12			
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14			
15			
16			
17			
18			
19			
20			
21			
22			
23	Subscribed and sworn to me this		
24	, day of, 2015.		
25			

	Page 171
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2	ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF DEPONENT
3	
4	I, HONORABLE JACK H. WEIL, do here certify
5	that I have read the foregoing pages 1 to 167 and
6	that the same is a correct transcription of the
7	answers given by me to the questions herein propounded,
8	except for the corrections or changes in form or
9	substance, if any, noted in the attached errata sheet.
10	
11	
12	DATE HONORABLE JACK H. WEIL
13	
14	
15	Subscribed and sworn to me this
16	, day of, 2015.
17	
18	
19	Notary Public
20	
21	
22	
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24	
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	1		1	
A	acceptable 103:2	addresses 157:8	102:23,23,24	33:23 34:5,9,10
aarulanantham	accepting 113:12	adds 51:10	104:13,23 105:15	34:20 35:3,7,11
3:6	access 79:22 147:13	adequate 71:15,16	108:8 109:3,21	35:23 36:21 53:19
ABA 155:9,14	147:24 149:18	adjudicate 131:17	120:18,24 122:15	53:20 54:22 59:4
163:11,11	150:11	133:11 134:23	127:5 142:2	69:9 101:11
abandoned 146:10	accompanied	135:8 144:21	143:22 144:5	113:16,20 134:18
165:22	113:16	adjudicating 52:12	154:16 160:24	agencies 86:9
abilities 22:9 28:11	accompanies 87:9	122:12 131:25	adulthood 58:23	agency 15:21 23:23
59:12	accompany 86:1,15	165:18,20	59:5,15	50:16 88:15 90:19
ability 39:3 43:3	106:25	adjudication 12:2	adults 9:17 19:6	agency's 137:10
49:12 75:18 76:2	accompanying	146:1	23:3 25:5 27:17	agenda 4:10 16:4
76:23 77:14,17	90:22 120:18	adjudicative	28:2 37:4 45:19	57:24 58:2 61:25
80:6 105:5 106:18	142:3	107:18 110:11	47:25 48:1,23	62:5 133:22
107:17 110:19,21	accuracy 82:4	admin 71:9 144:12	49:9 54:1 58:13	agendas 16:3
111:12 123:12	accurate 21:4	144:13,18 151:10	59:8 85:25 86:14	ages 59:2,13,17
131:2 139:17,25	49:16 66:6 75:24	151:14	89:18 101:1 102:8	101:11
147:12,24 160:11	82:14 117:9	administration	106:24 130:15	ago 14:11 116:18
able 6:24 22:13,24	achieve 108:22	60:23 124:23	155:15	agree 70:6 83:10
23:19,20 38:25	ACIJ 15:5,10 61:25	administrative	adult's 100:22	agreed 83:17,18
47:21,21 49:17	111:25 150:9	17:17 65:16	102:20	ahead 117:1 121:15
70:23 71:2 77:13	ACKNOWLED	administratively	advance 54:19 82:3	145:16
87:13,22 93:19	171:2	11:22 71:21	82:10 92:14	AHILAN 3:4
98:18 106:6	act 32:3,19	131:22 132:13	advice 24:4 123:23	al 1:4,7 4:6,10
107:13 108:13,14	acting 13:12 14:9	administrator 17:5	advise 143:15	170:6,6
108:19,20 109:7	15:1 16:17 129:5	admission 113:12	159:12	alien 4:8,22 24:22
109:12 110:2,2,16	129:6,7 136:22	115:10,14 116:10	advised 69:12	24:25 30:19,20
110:17 111:4	139:6	116:24 123:14	Adviser 123:19	31:18 32:20 34:7
112:22 123:5	action 42:16 127:24	admit 87:22 117:25	advising 159:14	37:3,10,22 133:8
150:12 157:17	131:2 169:20	121:23	advocate 63:12	allegation 116:2,24
absence 65:23	actions 48:10 130:9	admitted 120:24	65:6,7,8,9,9 78:4	allegations 66:11
165:6	active 91:21 166:17	122:4	91:5,7,15 93:6,23	67:15 68:23 69:12
Absent 117:3 118:5	activities 107:6,7	admittedly 119:25	94:13,15,22 95:2	69:16 87:22 88:13
absentia 65:15,24	actors 42:1	adolescent 59:18	95:9,18,20,23	115:9 117:1
66:4,15 102:9	actual 74:24 81:25	adopt 33:18 34:1	96:3 97:16,19,20	120:23,24 121:17
103:1 104:12	ad 50:5 51:12,19	adopted 84:22	98:1 147:19	allow 41:21 43:13
105:2,4,20 106:9	139:17	adult 9:21,24 18:23	advocates 61:6,7,9	43:15,15 87:9
absolute 64:19	adapt 157:20	20:2 25:21 26:5	64:7 93:12,25	100:21 101:25
absolutely 50:11	ADD 153:14	27:10,12 28:15	advocate's 96:19	114:13 131:20,23
103:3	addition 33:18	38:7,21 43:15	affect 18:25 76:2	133:11 139:25
abundance 163:4	65:11	46:19,23 47:2,9	77:3,6,8	160:17 161:21
abuse 130:14,16	additional 30:2	47:12 53:12 55:4	affixed 169:22	167:2,11
abused 62:24	87:17	55:21 56:9,13,16	afraid 60:7 95:5	allowing 85:10
165:22	address 56:7	61:9 70:19 87:9	96:10 143:20	166:20
accept 115:14	124:24 128:17	87:14,14,15 90:22	age 18:17 20:2	allows 27:6 103:5
132:8 134:2	157:6	91:1 98:12,15,16	23:16 27:22 30:21	105:25 130:9
137:21	addressed 125:5	99:15,16,22 100:5	31:4,18,22,24	161:20
	131:18	100:9 101:3,5,6	32:21 33:5,8,13	alter 107:12 153:15
	J			

alternative 161:7	142:7 161:15,18	applying 27:14	24:19 26:12 27:3	84:3 87:16 121:8
ambiguity 124:3	anymore 67:2	33:22 41:4 125:12	27:11,24 28:6	160:3,10
ambiguous 50:18	anyway 84:4	appoint 51:12,19	29:7,12,14,18	assessing 75:12
103:16 118:17	121:15 138:1	142:11	30:9,16 31:8,10	149:14
ambiguously 121:6	AP 23:8,8	appreciated 83:16	31:16 32:5,16	assessment 23:19
American 2:5 3:3,7	apart 9:24,25 41:25	93:10	33:4,21 35:1,6,15	70:7 76:19
AmeriCorps 65:4	50:20	approach 63:16	35:20 36:8 38:19	assign 17:2
amount 20:4	apparently 114:11	100:19 112:2	39:6 44:7 46:1,24	assigned 17:10
132:10 145:25	appeal 40:12	122:12	47:15,24 49:21	assigns 93:22
ample 165:13 166:1	Appeals 15:21	approached 14:16	51:22 52:20 58:6	assist 62:13 98:22
Ana 16:22 57:23	40:13 67:5 71:24	15:5	68:5,12 69:7 73:4	128:18 161:15
analogy 75:10,20	appear 53:18 66:5	appropriate 43:19	73:22 78:9,21	164:2
108:24 109:8	67:14 68:11,16,25	45:9,22 55:23	80:24 81:7 83:16	assistance 147:14
117:8	69:14 74:22 87:4	56:10 65:7 78:7	83:18,20 106:10	148:4 149:19
analysis 72:3 76:11	87:23 93:16,25	80:1 100:20	106:22 107:4	165:13
77:5,10 80:12,12	105:10,11,18,24	121:10 125:13	108:3 112:12	assistant 13:4,7,13
110:7,22 111:6	105:25 133:19	132:4 133:13	116:7 119:12	14:8,20,25 15:1
122:8 152:18	appearance 104:22	148:18 150:16,17	120:3,15 123:7	15:12 17:24 40:1
analyzing 84:11	142:12	appropriately	124:8 125:22	103:8 126:8 129:2
Angeles 3:5,12 9:4	appeared 102:14	106:8	128:1,16 136:18	129:8
9:11 89:25 92:7	appearing 141:21	approximately	137:24 138:7	assume 24:12 89:14
102:13 131:20	appears 53:17	14:22	143:2,5 145:1	114:15 138:6
132:1	121:5	April 4:10 14:16	150:3 160:5	149:16 158:9
Ann 1:24 2:4 169:4	apple 145:23	15:6 52:18 57:24	162:20 163:15	assumed 109:25
announce 18:11	apples 84:7,8	64:21 133:23	164:11,20 166:4	assuming 120:23
answer 6:7,14	107:10	136:6 137:18	167:19,23	162:6
21:10 22:22 24:2	applicable 34:17	archival 10:7	aside 55:17 114:14	assure 129:21
25:11 26:24 29:5	application 81:19	Ardmore 3:11	asked 14:13 15:6	asylum 4:19,21
31:13 32:15 46:5	95:21 98:22	area 13:6 118:9	26:22 27:18 29:24	95:22 96:9,18,21
46:6 49:20 68:6,9	131:17 133:3,11	areas 11:13 126:15	30:12 34:22 35:24	131:7,9 133:2,3
87:11,19 93:5,9	144:2,15 145:8,13	arguably 154:23	43:22 47:5,5 62:4	136:4,22,23 143:7
103:3 105:5 110:1	148:6 154:25	argumentative	95:25 99:13	143:19 145:3,16
110:25 112:22	162:1	33:16	102:17 116:4	146:4,9 148:5
117:18 122:11	applications 4:21	arrangements 53:9	142:3 143:8	149:21 162:1
128:9,13 132:15	90:15 131:10	53:14	144:16 151:1	Atlanta 163:3
137:25 140:4,6	163:18	arrest 130:25	asking 19:16,18	attached 57:23
143:21 144:23	applied 36:10	arrested 129:23	21:10 32:10 35:13	171:9
149:10	37:17 107:5	articles 85:16	35:16 47:15 48:12	attachment 124:11
answered 26:23	applies 20:1 27:20	articulate 72:10	54:14 72:19 73:5	attempt 131:3
27:19 29:25 30:12	35:8,15,21 38:1	80:13 126:21	96:2 99:21 100:2	attempting 46:10 48:15
34:23 35:25 43:23	133:21	150:19	115:16 116:20	
116:5	apply 27:9 33:8,23	articulation 152:18 ARULANANTH	144:14 148:13	attempts 45:17 attend 57:9 58:17
answering 22:22	37:21 55:12 90:20		154:13,13 157:4 160:21 166:15	62:7,10
83:14 164:10	90:25 96:8,18	3:4 4:3 5:5 7:12 7:23 8:2 17:20	aspects 19:11	attendees 83:3
answers 31:12	97:4,6,8,13 98:14	19:18,24 21:24	assess 28:16 43:11	attention 26:20
171:7	99:9 100:7 115:2	22:5 23:1,21 24:7	65:1 77:13 81:23	39:11 40:11 120:7
anybody 13:25	143:16	44.7 45.1,41 44.7	05.1 //.15 01.25	33.11 HU.11 14U./
			gradings and an experience of the first	

127:21 165:11,25	aware 10:23 40:16	69:23 88:8 104:6	100:19 133:19	116:10 143:22
attorney 8:10 82:22	49:14 67:15 68:10	117:2,24 118:4	birth 58:22	broke 59:22
104:4 109:13,15	68:22 70:5 74:14	119:25 126:14,21	bit 21:9 162:5	broken 59:16
118:21 119:17,20	84:1 86:18 87:2	126:22 148:15,16	bite 145:23	brought 54:18
140:20 142:17	89:1,3,5,10,11,14	152:2,4,17	black 26:5 41:10,24	56:21 127:5
160:14	90:18 97:2 102:15	Bates 136:20	blanket 88:23	Buffalo 127:6
attorneys 15:21	105:17,23 106:2,4	bear 108:9	103:15	builds 158:19
162:18 164:5	106:4,11,19 119:3	beginning 144:12	blocks 59:17	burden 66:11,17
audible 5:24	121:3 123:3,10	behalf 3:2,14 4:17	Bloomington	
audience 66:19	127:4 130:24	31:13 32:8 83:15	129:16	C
August 57:3 82:10	136:1,5,5 137:7	100:10	board 15:20 35:8	C 3:1,16 39:7 44:14
aunt 87:20 139:17	137:13,22 150:23	behavioral 107:17	40:12 67:4 71:23	44:25 45:7 169:1
139:18	150:25 151:25	behaviors 154:3,7	72:5,14 75:5	169:1
aunts 130:20	156:22 159:13,18	believe 9:16 12:14	Bob 1:4	cafeteria 43:6
authorities 104:2	163:22	12:24 42:20 55:7	bono 45:9,12,14,18	63:15 112:2
authority 25:20	AWC/ATD 4:16	55:8 64:18 71:11	45:22,25 46:4,8	calendar 92:13
41:14 51:11,13		71:18 78:6 79:20	46:10,17,21 47:1	145:10
87:25 95:21 99:14	<u>B</u>	80:23 81:2 89:16	47:11,23 48:23,24	California 3:3,5,12
100:16 103:22,24	babysitting 144:25	91:9 96:11 103:17	62:18 63:10 78:18	141:12
118:5,24 120:17	back 17:15 20:22	114:11 117:12,22	79:10,18,21 91:19	call 37:18,19 131:7
122:24 129:21	25:12 44:17 59:23	118:3 123:6	93:1 142:22 147:1	147:24 158:5
130:5,22 131:5	67:5 71:23,24	135:10 136:9	163:20,21 166:5	159:4,5
145:15 146:3,6	72:6,11,17 73:10	155:15	166:19,24	called 2:3 24:20
authorization 89:8	80:13 83:1,21	believed 98:4	books 85:16	53:4 60:2 103:7
89:11	92:6 96:9 98:13	Ben 3:16	Boone 4:14	163:6
authorize 30:1	98:16 99:13 122:5	bench 42:11 167:4	Boone-Fisher	calls 37:9 148:15
authorized 7:17 8:3	123:4 129:7 132:4	benefits 98:20	124:10	campaign 17:12
86:7	132:14 134:24,24	best 21:17 24:5	born 35:12 121:24	capabilities 74:11
authorizes 89:6	143:6 144:11	30:7 33:25 42:8	bottom 51:23 82:13	capable 23:3,13
116:6 118:11	154:13 160:9	44:20,24 62:21	bound 96:6	48:8 72:22
availability 62:13	bad 67:9	64:11 87:19 91:16	box 3:16 48:20,20	capacities 59:1
159:12	bar 88:23	94:16 95:16,25	boxes 48:16	capacity 13:12,17
available 46:21	barred 37:16	96:13,15 97:17	boyfriend 91:9	14:1 39:19,23
56:24 61:13 62:19	barring 118:24	119:8,10,14,15	break 6:19,21	40:1 48:12,14
63:10,11,13 65:2	bars 81:22	124:2 149:5	143:3	59:8 94:6 108:11
65:11 71:4 79:19	based 20:2 22:17	150:15	breaks 43:1	109:2,18 123:1
79:21 80:14	27:9 77:21 85:21	bests 63:13	Brian 124:15	160:15
105:25 111:2	88:18 93:7 96:11	better 41:4 42:6	bridge 8:15	captured 90:17
112:2,5,7 138:15	111:1 122:25	50:22 63:15 77:12	briefly 143:6	car 121:25 122:5
142:23 146:23	146:18 157:20	beyond 12:20 81:25	bring 40:10 43:3	care 38:22
148:24 149:14	159:10	97:16 109:6	85:11 104:24	CARECEN 92:8
151:5,15 152:7	basically 63:14	125:12 126:7	brings 127:21	careful 153:25
153:12 155:5	71:10 82:23	140:11	Brisack 9:11	carefully 161:10
157:15,24 159:20	103:19 130:11	big 126:22,22 163:7	broad 139:13	case 1:4 9:23 12:1
165:14	145:6	163:7	broader 68:4	25:16 28:9 38:22
Avenue 3:11	basis 6:13,15 38:13	biggest 164:3	138:11	42:13 43:17,24
avoid 36:24	39:10 43:11 49:3	binding 21:11	broadly 86:3	50:1 56:1,10,14
ı		I		

			·····	
56:15 57:12 65:1	75:4,11,11 76:9	75:7 87:10 90:21	33:9 38:5,6,14,20	134:20 139:23
66:10,18 67:1,3,6	76:19 77:23 78:19	95:6 101:12 104:2	38:23 41:8,12,18	142:3 143:11,23
71:8,9,9,23 72:4,7	79:13,16 80:1,16	104:4,5 110:18	41:21 42:12 43:2	144:3 147:18
72:11,20,25 74:3	83:25 84:6,18	140:18 144:19	43:11,11,16 45:9	148:20,25 149:17
74:18 75:4 78:8	85:9 89:15 90:8	certainly 88:23	45:23 46:15,16,22	149:21,22 153:14
79:20 80:7,9,13	90:11 92:16,19	105:1	47:1,7,9,10,20,21	153:17,21 154:23
80:17,21 84:5	93:15 99:15 102:7	certainty 6:2 64:19	48:3,4,6 52:4,21	154:24 159:23
87:8 88:2 89:24	112:5 124:25	certify 169:5,14,17	53:2,16,20,22,23	160:11,15,17
90:14,16 91:5,6,8	127:2 136:2,10	171:4	54:7,9,12,16 55:1	161:8 162:17,25
91:14 92:4,21	140:13,22,25	CFR 112:15	55:3,5,6,6,7,9,20	164:13 165:21,25
93:17 94:4 96:12	141:18,19,20	change 94:10	55:24,25 56:8,13	167:10
102:17,25 103:10	142:6,21,22	107:20 108:18	57:5 58:14,24	childhood 19:4
104:12 105:13	142:0,21,22	110:6,20 137:3,5	59:10 61:6,7,8	22:19 59:17
104.12 103.13	145:19,24 150:23	137:7 138:2	63:12 64:6 65:6,7	children 4:8,22
111:18 114:1	152:1,7 153:9	157.7 138.2	65:8,9,22 66:5,8,9	9:15,18 13:24
115:11,12 122:12	159:22 160:6	170:8,8	67:2,13,15 68:25	16:10 18:23 19:6
123:8 125:7		changed 128:13,23	69:1,4,9 70:5,17	19:12,15,22 20:2
123:8 125:7	161:1 164:6 165:7 167:14	136:6 137:19	70:18 72:7,11,21	20:14 22:24 23:2
1	case-by-case 38:13	150.0 157.19	73:23 74:3,4,14	24:22,24,25 25:3
127:13,17 128:21	39:10 43:10 49:3	changes 94:9	74:23 75:21 78:3	25:8,9,13,16 26:9
131:20,23 132:3,9		132:21 171:8	74.23 73.21 78.3 78:12,13 79:23	26:19 27:1,16
134:21 139:24	69:23 88:8		82:13,14 84:22	28:2,4,23 29:1,21
140:17 141:24	catch-all 130:8	changing 154:11	87:10,13 88:25	29:23 30:11,15
142:10 144:23	categorically	characteristics	•	34:8,10,17 35:5,9
145:16 146:4,19	114:17	19:12,21 49:4,8	89:3,7 90:5,9,12	35:10,16,17 36:11
147:2,4,23,25	categories 22:15	charge 42:4 60:23 120:23	90:20,25 91:5,7	36:17,19,23 37:1
148:18 149:2	28:18 55:10		91:10,11,15,17	37:3,4,7,10,20,22
150:16,18 152:3,9	101:22	charges 66:12	93:6,12,23,25	38:1,9 39:22 40:5
152:15 154:6,8	categorize 23:9	67:16 68:23 69:12	94:13,17,21 95:2	40:20 41:25 42:21
160:3,3,10,12,13	48:15 87:3	153:10	95:9,18,20,23,25	40:20 41:23 42:21 42:25 45:18 46:5
160:14,18 161:1,3	category 22:20	Charities 141:15	96:2,3,5,7,8,17,18	
161:8 162:10,11	23:2 26:19 28:14	Charla 158:6	97:4,6,16,18,19	46:11 48:23 49:9
162:23 164:22	37:5 41:2 87:5	chatting 153:21	97:20,25 98:4,11	49:25 52:2 53:8
165:24 166:8	Catholic 141:15	check 147:4	98:12,14,16 99:4	53:13,15,25 54:2
170:6	cause 19:22 77:14	chief 8:24 13:4,7,13	99:4,6,10,12,24	54:4 55:3,14,17
cases 4:8,16 9:15	125:13,18,24	14:8,20,25 15:1	100:6,7,10 101:9	57:8 58:13,22
9:17,18,19 21:14	163:6,12,16,16	15:12 16:14,18	101:10 102:9,20	59:1,12 60:3
24:21 25:3 27:15	caveat 44:13	17:11,24 18:9	104:11,13,23,23	62:14,16,22,24,24
27:16,21 28:3,20	CD 83:7	40:1 103:8 126:8	104:24,25 105:1,6	63:6,8 69:19 76:9
29:21 34:7,18	ceased 168:4	126:9 128:18	105:14,18 107:22	76:13,17 85:9,11
36:11,16,19,22	celeb 163:6	129:2,6 136:22	107:23 108:6,10	86:1,15 105:23
39:22 40:4,15,19	Center 94:5,11	child 9:20 18:19	108:13,14 109:4,7	106:5 109:17
41:25 45:17,21	95:3,14	19:10 20:10,12	109:18 110:4,8,15	115:6 124:22
46:4 48:25 49:25	certain 10:17 19:21	21:19,19 22:8,14	115:5,6,25 116:22	127:2 129:22
53:8 55:12 56:7	20:3 26:25 27:8	22:14 23:7,7,24	116:25 120:18	130:17 131:3,10
57:10 63:6,18	28:18 30:1 37:8	24:8 25:13,14,16	121:23,24,25,25	137:6 140:14
64:11 67:10,21	44:1,2 48:10,16	27:10,12 28:14	122:3,5,25 130:13	146:21 152:23
68:11 70:15 71:22	49:3,5,8,15 54:11	30:19 32:20 33:8	133:2,8,20 134:14	155:10,18 157:3,7
L		1		•

158:23 159:22 163:12,18 165:5 clarification 68:2 clarify 51:21 118:18 128:3 118:18 128:3 118:18 128:3 118:18 128:3 118:18 128:3 118:18 128:3 118:18 128:3 118:18 128:3 118:18 128:3 118:18 128:3 118:18 128:3 118:18 128:3 118:18 128:3 118:18 128:3 118:18 128:3 125:24 125:24 125:24 125:24 125:24 125:24 125:24 125:25 13:18 128:3 125:15 125:25 137:8 138:2 125:18 128:18 128:3 128:18 128:3 128
163:12,18 165:5 clarification 68:2 158:17 complicated 134:5 consequence 43:2 children's 45:16 118:18 128:3 111:8 134:24,24 131:13 consequence 43:2 63:18 75:11 79:13 class 79:1 139:18 141:18 complying 125:17 consider 38:14,25 84:18 154:15 classes 20:16 155:11,25 125:24 49:2 65:6 88:17 157:2 113:19 114:17 comfortable 41:19 compound 36:14 computer 152:15 child's 9:23 38:14 classification 137:5 48:17 84:23 concede 87:23 consideration 43: 65:23 68:16 79:20 137:8 138:2 classified 134:15 coming 13:25 159:1 118:1 consideration 43:
children's 45:16 clarify 51:21 comes 106:19 111:7 comply 113:7 104:21 53:4 57:12 59:7 118:18 128:3 111:8 134:24,24 131:13 conserve 167:10 63:18 75:11 79:13 class 79:1 139:18 141:18 complying 125:17 consider 38:14,25 84:18 154:15 157:2 113:19 114:17 comfortable 41:19 compound 36:14 48:17 84:23 computer 152:15 94:23 105:14 65:23 68:16 79:20 137:8 138:2 115:18 concede 87:23 consider ation 43: 93:2 109:1 122:2 classified 134:15 coming 13:25 159:1 118:1 considered 59:4
53:4 57:12 59:7 118:18 128:3 111:8 134:24,24 131:13 conserve 167:10 63:18 75:11 79:13 63:18 75:11 79:13 139:18 141:18 complying 125:17 consider 38:14,25 157:2 113:19 114:17 13:19 114:17 comfortable 41:19 compound 36:14 94:23 105:14 65:23 68:16 79:20 137:8 138:2 115:18 consider 38:14,25 93:2 109:1 122:2 classified 134:15 coming 13:25 159:1 118:1 consider 47:10
63:18 75:11 79:13 84:18 154:15 classes 20:16 157:2 113:19 114:17 child's 9:23 38:14 65:23 68:16 79:20 93:2 109:1 122:2 classified 134:15 classified 134:15 classified 134:15 classified 134:15 classified 134:15 classified 134:15 coming 13:25 159:1 complying 125:17 125:24 49:2 65:6 88:17 49:2 65:6 88:17 49:2 65:6 88:17 60:2 60:2 60:2 60:2 60:2 60:2 60:2 60:2
84:18 154:15 classes 20:16 165:11,25 125:24 49:2 65:6 88:17 157:2 113:19 114:17 comfortable 41:19 compound 36:14 94:23 105:14 child's 9:23 38:14 classification 137:5 48:17 84:23 computer 152:15 153:5 65:23 68:16 79:20 137:8 138:2 115:18 concede 87:23 consideration 43: 93:2 109:1 122:2 classified 134:15 coming 13:25 159:1 118:1 considered 59:4
157:2 113:19 114:17 comfortable 41:19 compound 36:14 94:23 105:14 child's 9:23 38:14 classification 137:5 48:17 84:23 computer 152:15 153:5 65:23 68:16 79:20 137:8 138:2 115:18 concede 87:23 consideration 43: 93:2 109:1 122:2 classified 134:15 coming 13:25 159:1 118:1 considered 59:4
child's 9:23 38:14 classification 137:5 48:17 84:23 computer 152:15 153:5 65:23 68:16 79:20 137:8 138:2 115:18 concede 87:23 consideration 43: 93:2 109:1 122:2 classified 134:15 coming 13:25 159:1 118:1 considered 59:4
65:23 68:16 79:20 137:8 138:2 115:18 concede 87:23 consideration 43: 25:23 109:1 122:2 classified 134:15 considered 59:4
93:2 109:1 122:2 classified 134:15 coming 13:25 159:1 118:1 considered 59:4
100.11(0.01
123:1 162:21 CLE 81:23,25 82:4 commencing 2:8 conceded 120:25 71:17 72:1 78:2
choose 113:25 82:7,21 comments 83:3 conceding 88:12 79:17 103:15
132:20 clear 6:4,17 30:3 common 19:21 90:14 considering 72:15
chose 37:18 54:15 126:6 49:8 54:11 117:21 concepts 79:1 111:9
chunk 111:22 clearer 51:16 153:18 concern 19:5,13 consistency 11:9,1
chunks 153:16 clearly 118:13 commonly 16:19 26:3 28:1 62:24 84:17
church 3:21 161:17 162:9 commonplace 113:21 126:2 consistent 48:18
CIJ 4:17 clerks 17:6 57:19 concerned 27:13 85:12 93:3 96:14
Circuit 40:13 clinical 141:13 communicate 88:5 48:22,24 69:2,4 100:23 130:10
115:11,12,17,20 clinics 92:12 90:9 127:18 94:25 95:8 134:9
115:21 116:6,8,15 close 11:22 71:9 communicating concerns 128:17 consistently 122:2
117:3,11,12,12,15 151:10,14 102:12 103:19 concession 120:17 consolidated 9:21
118:5,15,15,19,24 closed 152:1,7 communication 120:20 55:15
121:22 123:21,21 closer 156:21 59:11 70:13,14,16 concluded 72:2 constantly 154:11
127:8,9 133:5,16 closing 71:22 community 49:6 conclusions 121:17 constitutes 169:12
133:17 134:6,25
135:2,9,11,21,24
143:13 closure 65:16 70:6 14:1 consult 21:16 91:4
Circuits 115:15 152:10 compare 84:7 conditions 96:12 consulted 20:25
117:19 118:17 closures 144:13 comparing 84:12 97:21 98:9
134:6 143:17 codes 54:1,3 55:10 compelling 147:23 conduct 24:5,18 contact 92:25
Circuit's 135:10 55:12 compensate 111:3 62:1 110:23,25 contacted 9:1
circumstance 47:4 cognitive 59:12 competence 13:23 117:5 130:10 106:15
57:16 79:24 107:17 67:7 150:21 151:11 content 60:5 65:25
105:11 collaborative 21:22 competencies conducting 30:14 81:24 82:20 86:6
circumstances collect 111:13 107:19 110:10,12 40:8 166:18 contents 10:11 61:
14:13 23:18 55:22 COLUMBIA 169:2 competency 72:9 conference 15:20 64:21
66:7 88:17 96:22 combined 17:12 109:14 121:18 15:22 52:19 56:24 contest 118:1
105:9,17 come 21:22 40:12 142:6 82:3,9 132:24 context 11:25 19:1 cited 8:21 43:10 44:17 72:17 80:13 competent 109:10 confident 165:25 32:12 34:21 50:9
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
1
144:4 156:7 120:7 121:25 completed 133:10 137:22 102:13 107:5 citizens 122:2 129:22,23 132:14 completion 126:11 conflicting 135:2 108:7 109:9 113:
CIVIL 3:3 133:23 137:17 126:25 127:12,13 confusing 42:2 113:8 114:9,22 claim 146:9 148:5 142:9 144:11 152:16 64:2 67:6 143:19

			***************************************	······································
contexts 34:14,15	89:13,15 90:4	146:25 147:9	74:1,2,4,8 90:2	100:22 106:17
continuance 125:1	95:23 100:13	148:10 149:3	98:15,16 99:5,8	123:24 127:9
126:12 132:4	104:11 109:4	152:24 155:16	99:12	146:7
continuances 65:16	140:5 147:2 171:6	157:4,13,14	custodians 73:14	decisional 107:18
125:19,25 126:3,4	Corrected 4:11	158:17,24 159:16	73:14,15 74:6,7,7	110:10
126:5 127:1,2,10	corrections 171:8	161:16 162:24	129:21 130:19	decisions 88:24
140:23 162:8	correctly 55:14	163:21,22 164:2	custodian's 130:3	90:13 134:7
continue 11:21	correlation 75:21	164:13 165:7,15	custody 73:24 74:3	declining 43:21
71:8 105:22 132:2	Cougar 67:8	165:17 166:2,10	cut 37:7 111:21	deem 146:9
151:13 161:2	Council 2:6 3:7	166:19,20 167:11	Cutlip-Mason	deemed 73:20
continued 140:20	counsel 3:10 5:15	167:14	61:17	deep 150:8
continuing 81:19	8:23 9:24 15:3,15	courtroom 42:1	cut-off 33:5 35:19	default 66:16
131:20 144:19,20	77:25 79:15 92:7	92:20 108:9	36:4	defects 106:25
continuous 59:22	93:2 97:3,4,15	courtrooms 40:15		Defendants-Resp
continuum 48:16	103:2 159:25	courts 13:11 17:4	D	1:8 3:14
59:14,19,22	161:9,13,20	18:10 45:15,24	D 3:17 4:1,5	defending 88:13
157:14	169:15,19	52:10 53:10 85:21	daily 13:10	Defense 92:5
contract 158:5	country 94:1 96:12	91:21 101:5	dangerous 96:20	164:25
contractor 17:2,7	97:21 146:20,22	124:24 132:8	DAR 103:10	define 30:20 31:17
17:16,17	159:15	141:15 143:13	data 57:11 83:23	101:22
contractors 148:8	County 92:10	156:16 165:17	158:12	defined 139:14
contrary 100:18	couple 150:9	167:2	date 12:17 35:19	defines 110:13
118:6	course 4:13 7:2	court's 149:7	72:5 128:10 132:3	definitely 42:23
conversation 128:3	54:20 57:6 81:3,8	cover 54:3 62:17,25	152:17 170:6	152:25
conversations 11:3	81:12 130:18	63:12,13 65:5	171:12	definition 14:3,4
11:6 12:5 88:4	courses 81:13,20	92:9,15 106:9	dated 17:25	30:18 32:20 38:16
convince 97:4	court 1:1 4:7 17:5	covered 16:4 60:9	dates 10:7	39:5 107:15
coordinate 92:14	18:19,21,25 23:4	62:20 66:3,4 82:1	David 17:23	109:14 115:7
coordinating 164:4	24:4,21 41:8,22	82:6	day 60:19 141:9	135:5
coordination	50:4,25 51:18	covering 129:8	167:12 169:22	definitions 34:13
140:16	53:17 54:5 64:13	create 112:1 156:15	170:24 171:16	87:3
copies 83:4	86:2,16 91:20,22	created 134:10	days 140:18 162:7	definitively 89:9
copy 57:24 112:16	91:23 92:6,6,13	creates 14:1	162:7 167:25	DeFonzo 9:13
156:3,4	92:17,20,23 94:23	creative 98:7 153:7	DC 1:14 2:7 3:8,17	degrees 144:24
corollary 126:20	98:8,18,25 99:11	155:3 156:14	dead 147:18	delegatees 104:3
correct 5:9 9:7 10:1	100:2,3 102:8	credit 81:23	deadlines 82:4	denial 126:11
13:2 15:24 16:2,8	104:14,24,25	criminals 53:14	deal 19:10	deny 39:3 117:25
16:11 19:3 22:1	105:24 106:1,6,15	criteria 88:9 89:21	dealing 20:14 36:22	denying 127:1
26:14 28:24,25	106:19,24 107:1	cross 8:14 80:15	deals 18:19	department 3:15
34:18,19 36:13	120:9,19 127:9	121:25	decide 39:10 43:11	3:19 7:18 8:4
38:10,23 39:15	129:22,23 130:3	Cruz 67:8	92:15 106:8	28:24 29:22 31:2
40:23 47:12 48:20	133:24 135:21	current 51:4	145:16 146:4	31:21 32:7,8,9,12
50:1,2 55:1 57:18	137:10 138:18,23	137:18	151:13	32:18 35:14 45:11
57:19 58:7,8,11	139:1,2,2,6,12,16	currently 13:12	decided 103:18	47:16 86:24
66:6 67:6 68:19	139:20,25 140:1	custodian 9:25 38:6	decidedly 60:2 61:8	109:16 114:24
77:25 80:23 82:11	140:10 142:4,12	67:18,24 73:1,8	64:1,2	115:24 117:5
82:18 87:11,18	142:18,20 146:15	73:13,17,18,25	decision 47:22 75:6	118:6 122:14
22,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,				

department's 26:18	138:2 160:4,12	64:5,8 76:20	docket 4:11 53:11	drafting 21:22
31:3 49:23 51:4	162:11	difficult 162:16,19	53:15 54:24 55:21	113:1
90:23 108:6	determinations	dig 150:8	55:23 56:2,5,9,15	draw 30:23
114:16 122:17	54:19 62:22	direction 169:11	56:16,18,19 57:7	drawing 31:4,22
136:3 142:2	determine 25:14	directive 46:9	57:18 58:10 84:11	32:12
departure 91:11,16	38:15 39:1 54:25	directly 16:24 17:1	125:8 134:23	drawn 134:7
99:17,18,23	87:12 105:15	86:19 169:20	135:19 140:5	draws 32:9
depend 73:17	107:14 108:5	director 15:4 16:22	141:9 154:10,15	drugs 6:23
DÉPONENT 171:2	determined 27:6	disagree 25:1,22	154:17	dub 142:11
deposed 5:9	124:23	discipline 133:14	Docketing 4:15	due 13:17 26:3
deposition 1:12 2:2	determines 133:7	disciplining 135:3	124:12	27:20 39:17 41:1
7:7 8:19 10:14	determining	discovery 8:22	dockets 9:5 52:10	41:2 71:10 94:9
12:4,19 168:4	109:20	136:21	52:13 53:5,6,7,10	105:20 112:10,10
169:8,9,15 170:1	develop 59:14 98:3	discretion 114:2	54:17 55:2,18,18	122:20 162:16
deputy 8:24 16:14	155:20 156:11	125:12 152:6,11	56:6,20,23 57:2	165:6
16:21	162:14	discretionary	57:10,13 61:15	Dufresne 129:18
describe 75:7 76:8	developed 155:22	40:22	66:21 124:25	duly 5:2 169:7
135:2	development 18:17	discuss 10:3,21	138:21,22 141:13	DVD 95:13
described 15:23	20:7,10,10,11,11	58:25 66:22 113:6	167:9	D.E 129:13
40:4,19 42:20	21:19 58:14,23	discussed 10:18	document 7:8,13	
82:5 94:15 133:14	82:13 156:18	11:15 51:14 62:11	7:16 17:22 18:3,5	E
137:9 148:23	DHS 53:19 65:23	64:17 66:24	21:23 25:15 81:2	E 1:7 3:1,1 4:1
describing 75:5	66:11,14 68:10	127:21 138:15	81:16 124:13,17	51:24 169:1,1
description 4:5	118:21 119:16	152:21	128:18 136:24	earlier 22:2 74:17
12:22 59:16 81:9	130:22,25 144:7	discussing 27:15	documentation	75:3 94:24 99:13
81:25	dial 157:3	41:1 107:6,7	82:7,8	112:15 133:14
descriptions 4:13	dialect 77:18,19	116:15 128:7,12	documents 8:21,23	137:9,16 138:19
81:4,12	dictate 80:7,19	discussion 8:1 63:4	20:17 53:20 61:24	139:11 143:7
designated 51:8	difference 44:10	63:20 64:4 103:13	85:19 128:14	163:14
55:6 74:5	65:8 95:15 101:14	127:25 167:18	135:14 158:25	early 59:17
designation 55:8	119:24 121:9,16	discussions 65:10	doing 9:18 10:24	easier 79:7
137:11	different 11:14	disorder 75:21	17:14 21:14 36:24	East 170:2
designed 62:17	14:6,7 15:8 18:21	76:16,17 107:16	40:9 41:23 42:15	Ed 10:3,4
63:9,12,14	18:22 21:7,8 22:9	111:10 112:10	42:17 45:4 64:13	editors 123:18
desire 126:16,17	22:9,24,25 23:13	162:17	67:10 119:11,14	educate 47:22
detail 15:4,11 17:1	23:14 25:7 26:19	disorders 15:17	130:5 136:13	158:16
17:7,9,13	30:8 32:2,2 39:21	dispositive 137:11	142:20 144:9	education 18:24
detained 28:15,15	48:9 54:1 59:1,2	dispute 8:11 99:2	149:11 158:10,15	20:1,5 23:17
49:5,6 154:16,22	59:11,13,21 60:2	134:19,19,24	DOJ 22:23 26:24	81:19,21
detainees 49:9	61:8 64:1,3 75:23	135:8,18 137:13	29:6 68:4	Edward 9:1
detention 53:12	75:25 76:1,14,15	138:3	Dr 58:19 82:18,25	effect 154:3
97:10	77:19 84:5,5,6,8,9	distinct 123:12	draft 30:25 33:1	effective 72:24
determination 4:20	110:12 114:17	distinguishes 42:1	51:16 85:18	73:19 74:9 78:23
69:24 88:7,10	119:16 121:18	DISTRICT 1:1,1	drafted 26:8 41:7	78:24 83:1 88:21
96:13,17,19	122:9 144:24	169:2	42:8 50:14 101:21	134:22 151:9
107:12 108:10	154:6,11 156:10	division 128:20	drafter 50:24	161:21
109:1,7 137:6,8	differently 63:6,20	136:23	drafters 114:11	effectiveness 83:2
_				

				1
167:17	enter 93:19 98:24	evaluated 71:13	exists 117:16 147:2	98:1 107:19,20
efficient 70:3 78:24	entered 66:15	event 11:24	155:19 156:2,6,7	108:15,17 109:9
151:9 161:21	entering 99:1	Eventually 145:15	expands 115:12	110:5,19 121:5,19
effort 163:10	124:22	everybody 22:9	expect 157:13	136:16 146:10,11
efforts 40:7 139:22	entire 7:16 57:4	98:5 144:17 151:5	expectation 127:15	147:18 151:8
150:21	entitled 5:25	evidence 57:11	expected 60:16	152:15 160:22
either 12:1 61:3	109:12,15	76:16 83:23 97:25	126:13	162:9 163:3
71:14 80:2 89:12	entry 142:12	105:14 106:16	experience 18:18	165:19
92:24 107:15	envelope 136:14	111:14 154:2	18:24 20:8,14,18	factors 75:17 76:1
122:1 128:14	envisioning 51:2	exact 6:6 55:11	21:2,6 22:18	134:17,18
147:23 149:18	EOIR 4:12 8:12	77:15,18 115:13	41:16 50:13,17,23	facts 116:2,25
150:19 159:24	15:4,15 16:22	exactly 10:16 20:15	64:15 77:22	factual 115:8
169:19	20:13 22:23 52:5	59:20 82:6 137:16	experiences 20:5	116:11 117:23
Ekblad 1:4	67:18 80:18 81:3	examination 2:3	experts 21:16,18	118:4 119:21
element 104:1	81:13 129:25	4:3 5:4	70:5,6	120:22 121:16
Eliciting 82:14	130:1 151:25	examined 5:2	explain 19:19 66:7	122:25 123:13
eligible 161:9	155:20 156:25	example 6:3 25:18	69:16 71:16,25	fail 105:24 143:17
165:12	158:7	41:6 42:7,24 44:5	78:25 81:15 95:4	failed 71:25 72:9
email 4:9,14 57:21	EOIR's 15:16,19	45:24 49:5 57:7	98:20 131:8	75:6
124:10	EOIR000229 4:17	65:3 68:24 78:25	154:13 157:5	fails 104:24
embarrassing 62:3	EOIR000254 4:11	88:10 89:25 95:21	explained 141:11	failure 105:6,10,11
emotional 107:17	EOIR000259 4:13	96:16 99:18,22	explaining 105:18	105:18
emphasis 46:9	EOIR229 124:9	106:6 117:8	explanation 69:21	fair 13:20 14:2
employed 135:6	EOIR254 57:21	118:12 123:18	106:19	18:23 19:2,13,23
employee 169:17	EOIR257 58:12	127:20 128:23	explanations 154:9	23:4,6,9 24:6,17
169:18	EOIR260 82:12	131:19 133:17	158:18	24:18 25:4,17
employees 17:3	equally 27:20 48:24	142:19 152:14	express 89:8,10,12	27:7,23 28:13,17
employment 12:13	errata 170:5 171:9	153:14 156:9	96:7,14 133:25	30:15 33:19 34:2
empty 149:9 151:4	erroneous 162:9	166:25	expressed 126:2	36:5,7 37:16
162:6	error 127:14	examples 13:25	expressly 89:5	38:18 40:8 42:18
encompass 116:10	143:18	25:19	95:15 130:7	42:22 43:19 48:11
encourage 45:8,21	especially 49:25	exceptional 57:16	extensive 164:25	65:13 69:11 70:20
45:25 46:4,18	Esperanza 92:8	105:9,10,17	extent 8:12 40:3	71:5,13,19 72:14
77:11 78:17 79:9	ESQUIRE 3:4,7,11	EXECUTIVE 3:20	78:19 83:11	73:21 75:19 77:25
149:12 167:6	3:16,20	exercise 132:18	131:24 144:24	78:13 79:5,15
encouraged 138:12	essence 56:9	exercises 132:21	extra 72:15	80:2 88:20 102:1
ended 56:8	essentially 56:1	exercising 100:15	E-28 98:24	108:2,5 110:24
endless 154:18	establish 88:6	exhibit 4:5,9,12,14	F	111:1,16 128:8
engaging 103:23	115:7 116:25	4:19 7:6,11 17:19	F 169:1	150:21 151:12,23 159:23 160:18
English 149:22	117:23 152:17	17:22 57:21 58:5	face 118:16 155:23	1
150:4,5 157:5	established 52:10	81:6 124:7,9	facility 53:13 97:10	161:6,24 162:25 fairer 42:5
enhance 167:5,6,17	66:18 94:22	136:17 155:2	fact 20:2 25:12	fairing 75:13
ensure 28:1 30:2	estimate 11:7 93:8	exhibits 4:4 80:25	26:3,7 37:13	fairing /3:13
42:21 43:19 64:14	estimates 6:1	exist 61:9,10 117:16 138:21	38:20 44:22 45:24	64:14 76:25 77:4
75:13 77:24 78:11	estimating 14:16	140:4 155:11	46:15,25 47:6,10	77:6,8 101:15
78:13 79:14 80:2	et 1:4,7 4:6,10	156:15 158:2	47:19 48:2 77:14	121:9 122:21
130:17 159:23	170:6,6	130.13 130.2	.,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	121.7 122.21

123:6 127:15	final 4:10 57:23	forget 158:20	153:25	gears 112:13
fall 14:2 28:14	find 10:24 37:12	forgot 90:5 133:25	Friends 141:14	general 27:16 37:4
111:6 126:12	45:18 46:7,10	158:9 163:14	142:19 148:9	58:21 61:15 77:5
141:23	56:12 71:3 74:9	forgotten 166:11	166:19 167:11	79:10 80:19 92:18
falls 3:21 105:9	77:5,15 78:5	form 46:13 90:21	front 55:1 166:9	104:4 130:8
111:5 120:12	126:20 145:13	101:19 109:22	full 5:6 39:9 149:8	135:13 166:9
151:6,7	150:12,17 163:17	171:8	149:12	generally 16:1 45:3
false 7:4	finding 46:14 117:2	formal 139:3 140:2	fully 6:25	55:3 60:22 61:5
familiar 5:20 7:8	126:14 136:16	140:3,10 143:1	function 22:10,24	85:22 94:4 106:12
7:10,13 18:5	162:8	147:9 155:5	49:12 71:2 75:18	110:16 122:15
106:23 124:16	findings 165:19	formally 142:25	76:2,23 77:17	144:1 148:7
136:24	fine 29:9	formats 95:7	80:6 107:13,24	generically 35:18
families 89:2	finish 52:14 164:19	forms 162:13	111:3,12 112:10	geographic 93:24
124:21	finished 49:19	forward 66:13	142:1,15 160:11	94:2
family 9:19 97:5	164:9	103:19 114:13	functionalities	geographical
111:23 139:11	firms 163:5,7 164:5	155:1	75:17,22	128:20,22
161:16	165:1,1	found 40:24 41:3	functionality 58:14	getting 19:13 23:4
far 29:5 37:25	first 5:2 16:13 39:9	41:16,24 42:4,13	59:8 76:10 122:10	62:23 69:1,4 94:9
40:14 54:10 75:21	53:1 61:21 94:5	143:17 164:1	functionally 146:23	132:3 151:3
82:4 121:2	108:25 110:7	four 8:20 39:7	functioning 23:3	give 5:24 6:3,6 7:4
fast 126:18	125:8 126:18	69:25 70:7 79:2	112:8	24:4 25:19 42:24
faster 83:19	128:5,10 138:4	128:24 161:5,25	functions 15:9	63:14 78:5 87:19
fault 52:15	169:6	162:22	23:14 48:17 49:18	116:16 123:22
fear 133:7 143:21	Fisher 4:15	framework 77:12	70:19 71:12 87:13	128:24 129:16
features 19:4,11	fits 57:10 115:6	77:23	88:20 110:8	131:16 132:17,17
February 17:15	five 141:13	Franco 22:12 23:12	139:13 151:22	137:17 144:2
federal 17:12	flag 44:17	49:14 106:23	153:6	145:12 149:13
feel 6:22 84:23	flip 7:9	107:11 108:7	fundamental 77:4	151:11 153:16
115:18 147:22	flow 43:20	109:9,25 110:5	101:14 122:21	154:19,24 162:25
feels 71:15	flux 94:9	111:8	123:6 127:15	given 24:17 29:3
felt 126:3	focus 13:23 22:7	Frank 61:14 64:10	fundamentally	69:20 87:8 110:23
field 85:21 93:18	29:1 30:11 49:11	Franklin 3:16	13:20 25:4 27:7	145:25 149:17
152:13	focused 28:23	free 6:22 33:18	30:15 69:11 102:1	169:12 171:7
Fifth 133:17 134:6	29:20 34:4 128:4	123:23	110:24 111:1	gives 41:13 43:5,6
figure 51:21 56:3	focuses 63:17	frequently 139:21	119:22 150:21	giving 43:1
84:13 88:6 101:24	follow 103:6 104:6	Friday 62:9 65:14	151:12,23	go 7:23 12:1 22:18
110:15,22 146:19	109:24 117:11,18	Friend 1:4 91:20	funding 94:9	25:12 66:10,12
figuring 145:20	118:19 122:18	91:21,23 92:6,17	further 22:16 48:4	67:5 72:15 83:9
file 40:11 95:19,21	followed 28:1	92:20,23 98:8,17	115:15,19	83:19,21 88:9
132:5	44:23	98:24 99:11 100:1	fuzzy 63:4	94:7,11,12 96:5,9
filed 4:21 132:23	following 107:15	100:2 138:18,23		100:1 103:18
144:15 145:8	follows 5:3	138:25 139:1,2,6	G	105:19 114:13
filing 133:2 144:7	Fong 129:11	139:12,19 140:1	G 2:6 3:8	117:17 121:15
144:25 145:3	force 96:23 97:7	140:10 142:4,11	game 153:23	129:7 135:23
146:2	foregoing 169:8	146:15,25 147:9	gap 112:8	138:12 142:16
fill 112:8 148:6	171:5	149:3 161:16	geared 128:9	143:2,6,20 145:16
154:20 157:8	forever 133:21	friendly 42:12	152:22 158:23	149:20 165:15
		*		
	 a superior and a superi	 A contract the environment of the Contract to the State of the Contract to the Co	and a second control of regions of a rest field in despetition as a control of region of any state.	to a few and the second of the

goal 46:19 56:8	1 4 4 . 1 6		1	I
1 0	green 144:16	117:17 151:10	151:9 153:9	hypothetical 88:10
80:5 126:11	Griswold 129:9	happened 82:10	154:21,24 161:12	97:1,14
goals 126:25	group 24:25 26:21	125:9	161:13 165:2	
127:12,12,13	34:5,9,10	happening 127:22	helping 111:24	I
goes 16:19 18:2	groups 24:11 92:9	140:22	helps 158:16,19	ICE 129:23 133:23
50:6 84:21 111:19	92:14	happens 89:14	hereunto 169:21	134:3
134:22 154:8	guardian 50:5	159:17	hesitant 92:3	idea 41:7,11 42:10
going 7:7 11:12	51:19 139:17	hard 79:18 109:24	hey 95:18 134:1	50:11 62:2 63:15
17:21 20:4 21:13	guardians 51:12	hat 100:14	144:22 147:25	64:24 125:7
25:12 28:19 38:13	guess 6:3,8 11:7	head 7:21	he'll 6:13	146:13
41:1 42:15 47:3	21:25 135:16	headquarters	high 90:7 91:22	ideas 112:25
47:20,22 48:10	154:23	150:9	140:15 141:4,17	identical 82:24
49:2,4,16 57:8,8,9	guidance 18:10	health 75:4,11 76:6	141:19 144:3	identified 8:22
	21:6 23:24 24:10	76:13,15	hired 14:14,15	133:22
57:20 60:7,16	24:15,18 25:8,24	hear 9:14,17,23	hiring 14:13	identifies 42:3
64:8 69:5,21,22 72:12,14 74:7,8	29:3,20 30:5,14	11:10 92:18	history 12:12,13,22	identify 22:15 31:7
I			31:1 33:2 113:1	53:16 63:9 110:8
96:5,11 98:5 100:9 103:11	41:2 46:3,6 86:21 99:14,19 107:14	heard 136:25 137:20 159:17	hold 125:11	130:12 162:13
	•	hearing 14:2 23:4	home 96:20 98:16	167:5
106:5 116:18 117:1 123:4	115:15,20,22	30:15 33:19 36:5	143:20	identifying 53:1
l I	116:16 117:13	36:7 42:5 44:22	Homeland 32:18	ignore 105:8 135:4
127:23 129:18,19	120:5 127:19	48:11 60:22 65:13	homework 108:17	II 125:5
132:7 134:2,4	133:18 134:9,18	66:6 69:11 70:20	1	illegal 104:15
135:12,20,23	138:25		honestly 12:18 60:24 61:20	117:10 118:13
139:24 142:10,15	guide 31:11	71:5,12 73:20	!	120:11 126:10
144:19,22 146:10	guidelines 4:7	75:13,19 78:13	Hong 9:12	illegally 144:6
146:11,18 149:2	24:20,24 34:7	79:5,14 80:2,3	HONORABLE	imagine 72:20
150:7,18 151:13	40:22 85:16	88:20 102:1	1:12 2:2 4:2 5:1	98:13 145:22
151:14,14 152:5	H	104:18 108:1	169:6 170:7 171:4	160:6,8,13
153:15,16,16	H 1:12 2:2 4:2 5:1,8	111:1,16,21 125:8	171:12	imagining 97:14
157:20,23 160:9	169:6 170:7 171:4	125:11 126:18	hope 8:11	98:10
161:6,10,18,22	171:12	140:19 145:17	hoping 87:18	immaturity 50:12
162:4 164:6,6	hand 7:7 17:21	146:5 150:22	146:14	50:15
165:2,16	57:20 105:7	151:12,23 159:23	horse's 137:20	immigrant 162:22
good 67:10 77:16	136:19 151:17	160:18 161:6,23	hotline 147:8 159:2	165:5
97:1 125:13,18,24	169:22	161:24 162:25	159:3,3,14	immigration 2:6
136:15 162:18,18	handed 17:22	hearings 34:2 40:8	hours 27:15 162:7	3:7,20 4:6,7 8:24
govern 100:22	handle 15:6 56:19	102:17 166:18	162:7	9:2 13:5,7,11,13
government 21:12		167:1	house 96:5	14:8,20,25 15:13
119:20	57:1 63:5 80:16 85:8 100:16	heightened 38:8	Houston 9:3,10	15:20,21,23 16:14
grandma 153:24,25	85:8 100:16 handled 9:4	HELAINE 3:20	90:3 92:11 128:25	16:18 17:4,4,11
grant 96:21 151:19		Helaine.Perlman	129:12,13	17:15,23,24 18:10
granted 134:21	handling 36:19	3:22	huge 88:16	18:11 23:4 24:21
granting 125:18,25	57:18 58:10 61:15	held 2:5 14:24	human 158:20	26:15 29:3 31:24
grants 94:10	64:11 84:18	143:14	humanitarian	
great 161:7	handouts 166:23	help 41:17 79:23	163:12	34:18 36:3,9,15
greater 27:25 45:17	happen 55:20	94:13 111:14	hundred 127:13	36:21 37:12 39:9
greatly 142:15	57:16 72:12 91:13	112:1 148:1,3,3,6	hurt 153:11	39:16,20,24 40:2

133:1,4,6,9 136:2 139:23 113:9 153:8,8 146:21 166:22 149:20,24 152:24 149:20,24 152:24 155:16 157:4 158:24 159:13 161:15,5 162:12,24 163:20 162:12,24 163:20 162:12,24 163:20 162:12,24 163:20 162:12,24 163:20 162:12,24 163:20 162:12,24 163:20 162:12,24 163:20 162:12,24 163:20 162:12,24 163:20 162:12,24 163:20 162:12,24 163:20 162:12,24 163:20 162:12,24 163:20 162:12,24 163:20 162:12,24 163:20 162:12 162:13 162:13 162:13 162:13 162:13 162:13 162:14 162:15 162:14 162:15 162:14 162:15 162:1				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	raye 18
45:8 51:11,25	40:3.13 41:15	implemented 10:12	145.9	100.5 116.19	155:16
544,21,24 57:4 Total Control of the properties of the properti	1				
15:16 103:14 118:25 120:4 13:16 13:14 13:15 13	1	1	<u> </u>	•	
Total Processed 18:11 Improvements 13:14,15 13:	1	, - •		I .	
This is the control of the control	1	1	1	ł.	_
83:24 86:1,15	j .				1
87:8 88:1 89:17 miportance 37:14 midirectly 169:20 individual 11:3,44 22:8 23:7,101:51 33:18 144:7 36:11,16;22:39 100:14,16 101:2 41:20,23 46:17 48:19 67:12,15 13:218 153:5 113:11 115:4,25 113:11 113:1 113:2 113:11 115:4,25 113:11 113:2 113:11 113:4,4 113:11 113:11 115:4,25 113:11 113:11 115:4,25 113:11 113:11 113:11 113:11 113:11 113:11 113:11 113:12 113:11 113:11 113:11 113:12 113:11 113:12 113:11 113:11 113:11 113:11 113:11 113:11 113:11 113:12 113:11 113:11 113:11 113:11 113:11 113:11 113:11 113:12 113:11 113:11 113:11 113:11 113:11 113:11 113:12 113:11 113:11 113:11 113:12 113:11 113		1 2 0	_	1 •	1
93:6 94:3,14 95:5 96:21,24 100:11 34:23 48:15 41:3 22:8 23:7,10,15 133:18 144:7 27:17 28:3 29:2 27:10 25:104:10,11 107:1 108:4 112:3 146:17 48:19 67:12,15 146:17 48:19 67:12,15 146:17 48:19 67:12,15 146:17 48:19 67:12,15 146:17 48:19 67:12,15 146:17 115:4,25 116:16,21 117:6 119:13 120:16 impressed 158:11 impressed 158:12 impressed 158:13 impressed 158:24 i	1 '	I	I.		1
96:21,24 100:11	1	, -	-		
100:14,16 101:2	1	1 -	1		
102:5 104:10,11	I '	i e	1 ' '	i e	į.
107:1 108:4 112:3	1	· '	· ·	1	
113:11 115:4,25	•	1	l .		1 '
116:16,21 117:6		i			1
119:13 120:16 113:17 123:19 125:17 128:19 130:2,3 131:12,14,15 133:14,46,9 136:2 133:20 116:23 133:20 116:23 143:9,14 145:4 129:25 146:21 166:22 166:22 166:42 169:14 149:20,24 152:24 159:8,11 159:13 161:1,5 162:12,24 163:20 165:20 165:20 165:20 165:20 160:40 45:3 58:2 160:142 121:2 160:142 101:12 161:14 160:14 179:20 121:21 121:6 126:19 101:12 101:12 101:12 101:12 101:12 101:12 101:12 101:12 113:14,15,20 114:18 113:17,9,15 135:16 134:1,5 136:14 13	-				
123:19 125:17 128:19 130:2,3 131:12,14,15 133:14,46,9 136:2 133:14,64,9 136:2 137:10 139:23 143:9,14 145:4 147:16 148:21 147:16 148:21 122:5 134:20,24 152:24 155:16 157:4 158:24 159:8,11 159:13 161:1,5 162:12,24 163:20 165:20 165:20 165:20 165:20 161:19 164:25 162:19 161:12 161:12 161:12 161:12 161:12 161:13 161:13 161:12 161:12 161:13 161:	1				
128:19 130:2,3 131:12,14,15 improves 83:24 implores 83:24 implores 83:24 implores 83:24 implores 121:15 13:20 116:23 14:29 153:8,8 14:39,14 145:4 149:20,24 152:24 inadequate 72:2 infamey 59:17 infinite 153:3 inform 143:11 16:21 15:15 inclined 121:20 inclined 121:20 inclined 121:20 inclined 121:20 include 45:3 58:2 include 45:3 58:2 include 45:3 58:2 include 48:3 56:20 include 48:3 6 including 36:11 121:6 126:19 impacting 26:7 impact 110:18,20 impairment 77:19 impairment 77:13 77:3,6,8,13 17:35 77:25 77:2 impairs 75:17 77:17 107:16 implement 80:20 impleme				1	
131:12,14,15	1		· ·		1
133:1,4,6,9 136:2 137:10 139:23 143:9,14 145:4 147:16 148:21 12:25 12:25 136:20,24 152:24 155:16 157:4 158:24 159:8,11 159:13 161:1,5 162:12,24 163:20 165:20 161:20 161:20 161:20 161:20 161:26 129 161:26 129 161:26 129 161:26 129 161:26 129 161:26 129 161:26 129 161:26 129 161:26 129 161:26 129 161:26 129 161:26 129 161:26 161:2	1		1		i
137:10 139:23	1	t -	1 ' '	l.	irrespective 109:3
143:9,14 145:4 147:16 148:21 12:25 infancy 59:17 infinite 153:3 149:20,24 159:24 inappropriate 23:23 24:3 117:5 informal 142:24 159:13 161:1,5 23:23 24:3 117:5 incentive 97:12 inclined 121:20 165:20 include 45:3 58:2 81:21 82:14 90:5 63:1,9,13 93:2 124:2 142:8 14 167:25 157:15 121:6 126:19 impact 18:18 19:9 impact 121:4 impact 19:12 including 36:11 121:6 126:19 impaired 110:18,20 impaired 110:18,20 impairment 77:1,3 77:3,6,8,13 17:3,6,8,13 17:3,525 77:2 impairer 55:17 77:17 107:16 implement 80:20 implement 80:2					
147:16 148:21	!	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	1	3	I .
149:20,24 152:24 inadequate 72:2 inappropriate 155:16 157:4 158:24 159:8,11 23:23 24:3 117:5 incentive 97:12 inclined 121:20 inclined 121:20 inclined 45:3 58:2 finclude 45:3 58:2	1		. *	interest 62:21	issue 22:2 26:4
155:16 157:4	!			91:16 94:16 95:16	29:22 54:13 68:1
158:24 159:8,11 23:23 24:3 117:5 incentive 97:12 information 8:13 131:24 169:19 119:20 121:21 12:20 30:6 64:25 include 45:3 58:2 64:2 include 45:3 58:2 64:2 90:18 95:5,10 95:25 152:23 146:4 148:14 163:8 164:16 101:12 incumpetent 110:9 ingaired 110:18,20 impairment 77:1,3 impairment 77:1,3 impairment 77:1,3 177:3,6,8,13 110:13,23 impairments 75:23 75:25 77:2 impairment 80:20 implement 80:20 implement 80:20 implement 80:20 implement 80:20 implement 80:20 implement 40:14 indicate 95:24 incompetent 110:9 113:14,15 100:15 148:10 100:15 148:10 100:15 148:10 143:15 incumpetent 122:6 including 30:14 incumpetent 10:9 13:14,15,20 13:15,10 13:14,15,20 13:15,10 13:14,15,20 13:15,10 13:14,15,20 13:14,15,20 13:14,15,20 13:15,10 13:14,15,20 13:15,10 13:14,15,20 13:15,10 13:14,15,20 13:15,10 13:14,15,20 13:15,10 13:14,15,20 13:15,10 13:14,15,20 13:15,10 13:14,15,20 13:15,10 13:14,15,20 13:15,10 13:14,15,20 13:15,10 13:14,15,20 13:15,10 13:14,15,20 13:14,15,20 13:15,10 13:14,15,20 13:15,10 13:14,15,20 13:14,18,13,10,11 13:14,15,20 13:15,10 13:14,15,13 13:14,15,10 13:14,15,10 13:14,15,10 13:14,15,10 13:14,15,10 13:	1 '	_	inform 143:11	96:7,13,14,15	72:17,20 86:19
159:13 161:1,5 162:12,24 163:20 inclined 121:20 include 45:3 58:2 include 45:3 58:2 include 45:3 58:2 64:2 90:18 95:5,10 95:25 152:23 146:4 148:14 165:3 17:25 111:11 121:6 126:19 inclusive 157:25 inclusive 157:25 inmpacts 121:4 incompetent 110:9 impair 77:19 impairment 77:1,3 impairment 77:1,3 77:3,6,8,13 110:13,23 impairments 75:23 impairments 75:23 impairments 75:23 impairments 75:17 77:17 107:16 implement 80:20 implement 80:20 implementation includic 41:24 includic 95:24 information 8:13 131:24 169:19 interests 62:16,21 123:12,12,20 124:2 142:8 143:14 165:3 125:15 152:23 146:4 148:14 165:3 interpret 122:20 interpret 123:18:10 123:18:10 123:18:10 123:18:10 123:18:10 123:18:10 123:18:10 123:18:10 139:10 66:22 71:11 139:10 66:22 71:11 139:10 66:22 71:11 139:10 1	155:16 157:4		informal 142:24	97:18	91:17 114:3
162:12,24 163:20	158:24 159:8,11	23:23 24:3 117:5	147:10	interested 8:12	115:11,16 119:19
165:20	159:13 161:1,5	incentive 97:12	information 8:13	131:24 169:19	119:20 121:21
165:20	162:12,24 163:20	inclined 121:20	12:20 30:6 64:25	interests 62:16,21	123:12,12,20
impact 18:18 19:9 64:2 90:18 95:5,10 95:25 152:23 146:4 148:14 163:8 164:16 107:25 111:11 including 36:11 140:25 156:20 internally 137:14 165:3 issued 10:9 18:9 impacting 26:7 inclusive 157:25 initial 4:20 125:11 incompetent 110:9 13:7,9,15 135:16 interpret 122:20 issued 10:9 18:9 20:17 28:24 impair 77:19 incompetent 110:9 131:7,9,15 135:16 interpretation 14:4 125:15 128:5 initial 4:20 125:11 incompetent 110:9 initiatives 156:23 input 155:21 inguire 44:44 47:20 interpreted 143:22 incompair 44:40 incompetent 110:13,23 incompair 45:12 inquire 44:44 47:20 interpreted 143:22 interpreted 143:23 interpreted 143:24 interpreted 143:25 interpre	165:20	include 45:3 58:2	81:21 82:14 90:5	63:1,9,13 93:2	124:2 142:8 143:8
107:25 111:11	impact 18:18 19:9	64:2	90:18 95:5,10	1 1	146:4 148:14
107:25 111:11	44:5 76:24 107:23	included 83:6	97:20 125:16,23	158:23	
121:6 126:19 inclusive 157:25 initial 4:20 125:11 interpret 122:20 issued 10:9 18:9 20:17 28:24 131:7,9,15 135:16 interpretation 14:4 125:15 128:5 131:7,9,15 135:16 101:23 118:10 125:15 128:5 135:24 131:14,15,20 114:18 increase 124:21 incur 45:12 incur 45:12 independence 120:13 incepretation 14:4 125:15 128:5 135:24 139:10 interpreted 143:22 interpreted 143:23 interpreted 143:23 interpreted 143:23 interpreted 143:2	107:25 111:11	including 36:11	· ·	internally 137:14	
impacting 26:7 inclusive 157:25 initial 4:20 125:11 interpretation 14:4 20:17 28:24 impacts 121:4 incompetent 110:9 131:7,9,15 135:16 101:23 118:10 125:15 128:5 impair 77:19 113:14,15,20 143:7 145:21 122:19 124:4 135:24 impaired 110:18,20 114:18 initiatives 156:23 134:1,8 138:10,11 issues 18:17 52:1 impairment 77:1,3 incerease 124:21 inquire 44:4 47:20 interpreted 143:22 issuing 23:23 110:13,23 independence 48:3,5 54:22 interpreted 143:22 issuing 23:23 impairments 75:23 120:13 inquired 44:10 77:16 IV 129:20 75:25 77:2 independent 5:14 inquires 133:6 interpreted 143:22 items 22:15 impairs 75:17 50:4,25 51:18 inquiry 133:6 intimidating 41:9 1-589 95:19 133:1 77:17 107:16 100:15 148:10 143:15 intricacies 137:23 1-599 97:24 implement 80:20 Indicate 95:24 169:14 introduce 124:9	121:6 126:19		157:15	•	
impacts 121:4 incompetent 110:9 131:7,9,15 135:16 101:23 118:10 125:15 128:5 impair 77:19 113:14,15,20 143:7 145:21 122:19 124:4 135:24 impaired 110:18,20 114:18 increase 124:21 initiatives 156:23 134:1,8 138:10,11 issues 18:17 52:1 impairment 77:1,3 incur 45:12 inquire 44:4 47:20 interpreted 143:22 issuing 23:23 impairments 75:23 120:13 inquired 44:10 77:16 IV 129:20 75:25 77:2 independent 5:14 inquires 133:6 interprets 137:1 1-589 95:19 133:1 impairs 75:17 50:4,25 51:18 100:15 148:10 143:15 intimidating 41:9 144:2,8 149:17 77:17 107:16 implement 80:20 INDEX 4:4 inspection 122:6 intricacies 137:23 1-599 97:24 implementation indicate 95:24 169:14 introduce 124:9	impacting 26:7	inclusive 157:25	initial 4:20 125:11	^	
impair 77:19 113:14,15,20 143:7 145:21 122:19 124:4 135:24 impaired 110:18,20 114:18 initiatives 156:23 134:1,8 138:10,11 issues 18:17 52:1 impairment 77:1,3 incur 45:12 inquire 44:4 47:20 interpreted 143:22 issuing 23:23 110:13,23 independence 48:3,5 54:22 interpreter 77:15 IV 129:20 impairs 75:25 77:2 independent 5:14 inquires 133:6 interprets 137:1 I-589 95:19 133:1 implement 80:20 100:15 148:10 143:15 41:12 154:20 implement ation INDEX 4:4 indicate 95:24 169:14 introduce 124:9				<u> </u>	
impaired 110:18,20 impairment 77:1,3 114:18 increase 124:21 incur 45:12 inquire 44:4 47:20 independence impairments 75:23 75:25 77:2 independent 5:14 impairs 75:17 77:17 107:16 implement 80:20 implementation 114:18 initiatives 156:23 input 155:21 inquire 44:4 47:20 interpreted 143:22 interpreted 143:22 interpreted 143:22 interpreter 77:15 inquired 44:10 interpretes 137:1 inquires 133:6 inquires 133:6 inquiry 133:6 intimidating 41:9 41:12 inquired 44:10 interprets 137:1 intimidating 41:9 41:12 interpreted 143:22 interpretes 137:1 intimidating 41:9 intricacies 137:23 interpretes 137:23 interpretes 137:24 indicate 95:24 indicate 95:24 interpretes 137:23 interpretes 137:23 interpretes 137:23 interpretes 137:23 interpretes 137:23 interpretes 137:23 interpretes 137:24 interpretes 137:23 interpretes 137		- 1			
impairment 77:1,3 increase 124:21 input 155:21 139:10 66:22 71:11 77:3,6,8,13 incur 45:12 inquire 44:4 47:20 interpreted 143:22 issuing 23:23 110:13,23 independence 120:13 inquired 44:10 77:16 IV 129:20 120:13 independent 5:14 inquires 133:6 interprets 137:1 1-589 95:19 133:1 impairs 75:17 50:4,25 51:18 inquiry 133:6 intimidating 41:9 144:2,8 149:17 77:17 107:16 100:15 148:10 143:15 41:12 154:20 implement 80:20 Indicate 95:24 indicate 95:24 introduce 124:9	-	' '	initiatives 156:23		
77:3,6,8,13 incur 45:12 inquire 44:4 47:20 interpreted 143:22 issuing 23:23 110:13,23 120:13				·	•
110:13,23 independence 48:3,5 54:22 interpreter 77:15 items 22:15 120:13 inquired 44:10 77:16 IV 129:20 120:13 inquires 133:6 interprets 137:1 1-589 95:19 133:1 impairs 75:17 50:4,25 51:18 inquires 133:6 intimidating 41:9 144:2,8 149:17 77:17 107:16 100:15 148:10 143:15 41:12 154:20 implement 80:20 INDEX 4:4 inspection 122:6 intricacies 137:23 I-599 97:24 implementation indicate 95:24 169:14 introduce 124:9 Introduce 124:9	-		_		
impairments 75:23 120:13 inquired 44:10 77:16 IV 129:20 75:25 77:2 independent 5:14 inquires 133:6 interprets 137:1 1-589 95:19 133:1 impairs 75:17 107:16 100:15 148:10 143:15 41:12 154:20 implement 80:20 INDEX 4:4 inspection 122:6 intricacies 137:23 1-599 97:24 implementation indicate 95:24 169:14 introduce 124:9 1-599 97:24	' ' '	i		•	_
75:25 77:2 independent 5:14 inquires 133:6 interprets 137:1 1-589 95:19 133:1 impairs 75:17 50:4,25 51:18 inquiry 133:6 intimidating 41:9 144:2,8 149:17 77:17 107:16 100:15 148:10 143:15 41:12 154:20 implement 80:20 indicate 95:24 inspection 122:6 introduce 124:9 implementation introduce 124:9	- 1	- 1		•	
impairs 75:17 50:4,25 51:18 inquiry 133:6 intimidating 41:9 144:2,8 149:17 77:17 107:16 100:15 148:10 143:15 41:12 154:20 implement 80:20 INDEX 4:4 inspection 122:6 intricacies 137:23 I-599 97:24 implementation 169:14 introduce 124:9 Introduce 124:9	- 1	1	-		
77:17 107:16 100:15 148:10 143:15 41:12 154:20 implement 80:20 INDEX 4:4 inspection 122:6 intricacies 137:23 I-599 97:24 implementation indicate 95:24 169:14 introduce 124:9 ————————————————————————————————————	E .	- 1	-	_	
implement 80:20 INDEX 4:4 inspection 122:6 intricacies 137:23 introduce 124:9 I-599 97:24	-		,	~	-
implementation indicate 95:24 169:14 introduce 124:9		ł t			
	- ,	1	-	i	コーンファ フィ. 4 サ
	- 1	indicated 88:4	instance 11:20	Introduction 18:16	J
indicated 66.7 Instance 11.20 littl oddetton 16.10	10,20 11,17	mulcallu 00.7	Instance 11.20	and unuclidit 16.10	

1				
J 4:9,10	126:8,9,14 127:9	116:17 117:22	57:1,13,18 58:10	85:17,18,22 88:15
Jack 1:12 2:2 4:2	127:16 128:8,19	118:2,3,7,25	61:15 66:21 92:4	89:7 90:11 92:2,4
5:1,8 169:6 170:7	129:2,6,8 130:2	119:14 121:7	138:22 140:5	92:7,11,21 93:8
171:4,12	130:13 131:12,14	124:11 125:10,17	141:6,9 162:22	93:12,15,24 94:6
Jackson 3:11	131:15 132:2,6,17	125:23 126:24	165:6 167:8	95:5 101:17
102:11	133:1,4,6,9,12,20	129:1,21 130:16	juveniles 30:20	102:22 103:7
Jennifer 61:6	133:24 135:11,21	130:21 131:18	37:2,6,9,19 53:11	104:17 106:14,16
Jill 129:18	135:21 139:16	132:13,19,23	J.E.F.M 1:3 170:6	106:20,23 110:16
job 1:25 12:22	142:3,10 143:14	135:4 136:2		112:25 114:10
Juan 16:20 57:22	143:23 145:4,5,15	138:12 141:5,18	<u>K</u>	115:16,19,21
judge 8:24 9:10,11	145:25 146:3,12	141:20 143:25	keep 11:12 31:15	117:18,20 118:2
9:12,12,12,13	147:16,23 149:20	144:9,13 148:17	165:16	118:15 119:23
10:4 11:2,2,4,21	149:24 150:7,16	149:13 150:23	Keller 61:21	121:13,21 123:8
11:21 13:5,8,13	151:7 158:18	151:2,4 152:1	Kelly 9:1 10:3,4	125:10 127:22
14:8,20,25 15:13	161:1 162:12,24	153:3,20,23 159:8	key 88:3	130:6,7 135:22
16:14,18 17:11,24	165:11 166:1	159:11,13,20	kids 92:5,19 130:14	136:10 137:1,15
18:9,25 19:22	judges 4:6,15 9:2,8	162:18 163:6	130:15 163:7	137:22,25 138:1,9
25:19,25,25 26:4	9:14,22 10:21	167:3	164:25	138:23,24 140:6,6
27:13 28:9 30:3,4	11:9,13,17 12:6	judge's 75:6 94:19	Kim 4:19 136:22	140:8,11,12 141:4
37:15 38:22 39:10	14:19 15:20,23	108:9 122:24	kind 10:7 63:1	144:20 146:14,17
40:2,9,18 41:8	16:1 17:4,23	126:13 130:11	64:14 72:2 77:20	147:5,5,8,20
42:2,13,16 43:13	18:12 21:2,14	143:9	85:20 92:2,5,8	148:13,14,16,17
43:17,20 44:3,11	23:24 24:4,15,17	judgment 66:16	96:1 97:11 102:16	149:5,6,10 150:12
46:21,22 54:8,21	25:3 27:21 29:3	109:2	109:24 113:13	151:1 152:6,8
54:24 56:9,13,17	30:1 33:18 36:9	judicial 17:6	115:12 126:9	155:10,15,18,24
57:3 64:25 66:10	36:16,21 37:6	118:10 120:12	135:19 138:3	156:1,2,3,6 157:2
69:16,21 70:20	38:17 39:16,20,24	122:19 124:4	141:5,8 142:19	157:11,13,16
71:3,5,15,25 72:1	39:25 40:3,8,17	jurisdiction 4:21	145:6 149:18	158:2,4,5,12,14
73:17 79:19 87:8	40:23,24 41:3,15	131:7,9,15 132:9	154:18 155:9	158:14,15 160:19
87:12 88:1,17,18	41:16 42:4,9,11	132:18,21 134:2	kinds 88:24 89:18	160:20,25
90:24 91:6,15	45:8,12,14,21	134:11 135:1,15	kit 78:5	knowing 100:8
92:18,24 93:1	46:4,7,10 48:19	135:16 136:4,9	kjackson@publi	154:21
94:14 95:1 96:1,1	48:21,22 49:22,24	137:1,21 143:8,24	3:13	knowledge 21:18
96:11,13,21,24	51:11,25 52:7,8	145:22	kmacleod-ball@i	77:22 103:25
97:24 98:3 99:3,3	52:11,17,22 53:16	justice 3:15,19 7:18	3:9	157:16,18 158:17
100:12,14,16,19	53:19 56:19,22	8:4 65:4	knew 65:4 knotted 110:1	knows 132:2
101:2 102:12,15	57:1,4,14,17,17	justification 31:3	know 6:2,5,20 9:8	Kocur 16:22 57:23
102:19,25 103:8,8	58:9 63:5,19,23	31:21 126:25	20:8,20 30:25	KRISTEN 3:11
103:17,20,22	64:5,8 65:4 66:20	justified 81:23	31:1 32:1,14,23	KRISTIN 3:7
104:10,12,22	70:15 71:21 72:9	justifies 26:20	33:2,5 43:2 47:8	L
105:1,4,13,17,21	76:8 78:11,17	justify 25:8	50:20 51:13 52:24	L 17:23
108:4,25 109:20	80:7,19 81:14	juvenile 4:10 9:4	53:2 54:8 60:10	LA 128:25 129:10
113:11 114:2	88:4 89:17 90:1	31:17 37:14 52:10	61:24 62:4 63:23	labels 36:25 59:20
115:4,25 116:21	93:6 94:3 95:5,8	52:13 53:6,7,10	65:5 69:5 72:4	lack 50:17 63:15
117:6,11 118:11	95:14 97:9 102:5	53:15 54:17 55:2	74:25 76:3 80:14	150:19 157:16
118:22 120:16	102:7,18 103:24	55:18 56:2,5,6,7	84:19,25 85:3,14	Lang 61:11 156:21
121:14,15 123:5	104:2 112:3 113:7	56:15,18,18,20,23	01.15,2000.5,17	
	e. Talan Talanga, kalender arende eta erreta eta erreta bilandea eta eta eta eta eta eta eta eta eta e	and the second s		

***************************************				1490 10
language 43:1	119:19,20,25	114:12	looking 54:13	95:13
69:17 77:14	122:6 123:13,23	listen 103:9,10	61:23 157:22	manner 75:18
128:11,15	125:13 135:17	listened 157:1	LOP 146:14 159:5	March 124:11
large 160:23,23	147:13,17,24	litem 50:5 51:12,19	LOPC 61:14	128:6
163:5 165:1	149:3 150:10	139:18	146:14 147:1,6	margin 127:14
largely 15:16 64:10	152:18 154:1	literally 69:25	148:8 149:4 150:6	Maria 61:5
94:10	163:17 164:8,12	literature 85:7,21	150:7 159:3,14,15	mark 17:21 57:20
latest 137:15	164:15	litigate 162:23	LORETTA 1:7	136:19 155:1
laundry 43:6	legally 73:20 119:5	litigation 5:16	Los 3:5,12 9:4,11	marked 7:6 17:19
law 17:6 67:11	119:6,7,9 144:6	22:12 23:12	89:25 92:7 102:13	53:18,21,23 58:5
69:24 70:8 86:18	legislation 33:1	little 21:9 58:13	131:19 132:1	81:6 124:7 134:20
92:11 100:24	legislative 31:1	living 104:24 131:4	losing 31:15	136:17
103:4 104:1,1,6	33:2	139:6	lost 29:17 116:13	marking 53:24
115:1,2,11,12,17	length 126:3	locally 144:21	159:19	54:8
116:6,8,15 117:3	lengths 126:5	located 9:3	lot 15:18 40:6	MaryBeth 61:21
117:19 118:10,15	lent 156:4	location 53:8,10	50:22 62:23 70:1	master 145:10
118:19 120:2	letting 43:1	96:5 140:4 158:14	70:1 79:4,7 86:21	match 80:5
121:17,21 122:18	let's 5:20 50:9 64:3	159:4,10	89:4 98:23,25	material 8:11
123:8,19 126:15	83:21 96:16,16	locations 91:24	111:24 151:7,7	materials 155:17
133:5,16 134:25	114:14 131:6	92:12 136:8	160:8 161:2,6,22	156:10,12,17
135:2,4,9,10,11	143:2 145:2	140:11,16	163:9,9	matter 10:7 15:25
135:12,25 139:7	level 22:13 111:22	long 6:4,7 11:1,6	love 120:8	27:16 49:10 79:10
161:5 162:10	132:22	14:5,7,12,24	lower 111:21	80:19 109:19
165:19	levels 22:25 48:9	52:16 67:9 79:3,3	LYNCH 1:7 170:6	115:10 135:12,15
laws 31:24	121:18	144:21 162:3,3,3		163:2
lawyer 38:6 86:17	leveraging 166:5,6	162:3	M	matters 134:23
laxed 142:8	liaison 45:14	longer 14:20 98:24	Mack 58:19 82:18	135:8
lay 21:20	LIBERTIES 3:3	look 18:15 21:15	82:25	matured 76:18
lead 55:4 89:2	lie 136:4	22:10,16 23:7,10	MACLEOD-BA	maturity 21:5,6
learn 159:7	lies 131:10,15	23:15,16,16,17	3:7	McGoings 16:15
learned 22:12	life 20:5 79:7	25:13 28:10,21	Maggard 16:19	mean 9:24 21:1
23:12 76:21	light 4:16 23:25	43:24 44:14,25	129:5	25:20 26:9,14
leave 42:6 51:9	127:5	46:17 47:3 49:4	main 13:23	28:15 30:4 33:12
55:16 114:14	limitation 93:25	49:10,16,22,24	majority 90:7	35:12,16,18 37:14
120:13 157:23	94:2	51:15 59:23 60:9	160:23,23	39:16 50:8 51:17
led 124:19 137:9	limited 15:24 16:6	76:21,22 77:1,9	making 42:18 67:13 75:2 84:22	54:10 55:21 56:2
138:1	147:6 160:15	84:15 87:13 98:7	90:13 97:12 117:1	56:3,4,5 64:6
Leesburg 3:21	line 16:13 17:25	106:7 110:18	130:21 164:4	66:14 70:12 73:25
leeway 135:23	30:23 31:4,22	112:17 120:11	165:18	79:8 85:2,4 87:7
left 14:15 132:18	32:9,12 80:15	135:24 142:17	male 53:12 154:17	104:2 109:23
legal 4:12 51:13	139:13 170:8	143:24 147:25	man 136:15	111:18 119:19
52:19 62:17,18 65:9 69:15 79:22	Lisa 129:15	153:13 155:3	man 130:13 manage 164:6	123:5 138:6 139:3
1	list 43:6 46:21	160:2,9,12	management 90:16	139:12 146:24
81:3,13,19,21,24 82:22 87:25 90:13	81:12 85:1 113:17	looked 8:22 47:7	93:18 152:3	147:3 148:2 154:5
95:17,24 96:6	114:14,15 147:17 listed 60:14 62:6	65:21 66:8 82:25	mandatory 39:15	161:13 163:16,23
105:3 115:10	65:17 101:22	85:19,23 103:12 136:7	40:22 52:17 56:25	166:6
100.0110.10	03.11 101.22	130.1	10.mm Ja.11 JU.LJ	meaning 40:14

86:14	mentioned 5:15	Nagda 61:6	Nodding 33:11	NW 2:6 3:8,17
meaningful 74:25	29:16 34:12 37:11	name 5:6 16:18,19	nonattorney 85:25	
means 51:19	78:25 161:14	67:4 72:5 127:10	86:14 87:9 89:18	<u> </u>
meant 35:22 50:19	mentions 34:13	155:8	90:22 98:11 99:15	oath 7:3 13:2
50:24 51:21 81:20	message 41:22	named 9:2	99:16,22 100:21	object 6:11 24:1
81:24	met 8:23 105:4	names 9:8 67:11	101:1,3 102:8	25:10 38:11 45:20
measure 83:2	Miami 128:25	141:16	104:13 106:24	46:13 47:13 51:7
measures 56:10	129:14,15	narrow 134:25	108:8	68:8 73:2 75:14
mechanism 132:16	Michael 16:14	nationals 122:2	nondetained	83:11 109:22
medications 6:23	mid 90:8	nationwide 15:16	124:25	137:12
Medis 1:24 2:4	mind 13:25 73:15	nature 158:21	nonjuvenile 54:24	objection 6:16 22:4
169:4	165:16	Neal 4:5 17:24	nonlawyer 120:18	22:21 23:5 24:14
meet 39:4 40:6	mindful 80:10	near 127:7	nonlawyers 122:16	26:22 27:5,18
92:22 109:13	Minnesota 129:16	necessarily 134:9	nonparent 88:11	28:5 29:4,8,24
127:16	minor 1:3 34:15	151:19 156:25	nonrepresentatio	30:13 31:6,10,11
meeting 102:14	166:13	necessary 11:11	148:23 149:19	31:23 32:13,25
103:1 120:9 126:9	minute 83:22	55:24 70:19 78:6	norm 85:20	33:15 34:22 35:4
163:3	114:15 144:22	149:15	normally 86:17	35:24 38:24 43:22
member 139:11	minutes 6:6 11:8	need 6:19 18:21	Notary 2:5 169:5	47:18 68:20 73:11
161:17	116:17	20:19 22:10 26:20	171:19	78:1,14 80:22
memo 31:8 32:9	misled 81:15	27:25 28:2,16	note 163:13	83:12,12,14 106:3
33:5,6,7,17,22	mix 111:19	29:8,22 38:3,8,21	noted 171:9	106:13 107:2,9
34:4,6,12,16,20	mock 166:18	41:22 47:1,11	notes 5:21 12:3,5,8	114:20,23 116:4
35:3,8,21 36:11	moderator 60:14	69:11 74:24 92:5	60:10,25	119:2,18 120:6
1 ' '	61:1 82:19,21	95:18 97:3 111:19	notice 7:7 10:15	123:2 125:20
37:8,13,15,21 38:4 39:15,21	moderators 60:15	135:18 148:1,2	66:4,6 67:14,20	138:5 149:25
i ' I	molesting 91:10	153:13 164:22,25	68:11,16,22,24	160:1 162:2 163:1
40:4,19,22 41:7 42:20 51:14 83:21	mom 111:13,13,14	166:7	69:14,20 74:12,22	165:8
į l	moment 7:24 44:15	needed 71:12 77:24	87:23 104:18,19	objective 108:22
124:15,20 125:1,5		78:12 79:14 82:1	105:7,8,16 133:19	objectives 127:17
125:6,15 126:1	158:22		notices 53:18 139:4	obligation 27:21
127:3 128:4	monitoring 154:12	87:16,17 88:20	notion 42:10 84:22	79:5 94:19,21
129:20 136:25	month 93:11	92:10 116:2,25		98:3 133:4 143:9
137:4 138:24	morning 65:14	166:6,7	notwithstanding	143:10 149:23
memorandum 4:5	mother 91:10	needs 18:25 39:18	6:16 NTC 4 54-7 124-20	162:14
4:7,19 17:23 18:1	mother's 91:9	40:17 66:17	NTA 54:7 134:20	obligations 100:23
18:9 124:12	motion 132:5	165:12	number 28:22	130:12
136:21	mouth 137:21	neglected 165:22	29:19 32:14 34:24	observed 158:3,15
memory 63:3	move 106:18	neither 104:13	37:17 43:4 44:2	obtain 116:2
memos 40:25	154:25	network 148:11	57:22 58:1 90:4	164:13
137:23	moves 128:22	165:1	102:17 126:4	obviate 38:21
mental 13:23 15:17	multiple 14:14 72:3	networks 150:11	136:20 140:15,23	obvious 54:11
67:7 72:8 75:4,11	111:20 115:21	never 80:4,7 88:14	141:4,18,19 147:6	obviously 6:8 20:4
75:20 76:6,13,15	140:24,24	new 4:16 21:23	147:7	34:6 56:7 64:7
76:16,17 106:25	NI	127:6 170:3,3	numbers 7:22 32:2	
107:16 110:8	N	nine 112:14	32:4 92:4 102:18	73:24 104:14
111:10 112:10	N 3:1 4:1	Nintendo 96:10	numeric 35:19	113:5 160:18
142:6 162:17	Nadkarni 129:13	noble 131:3	numerical 36:4	occasion 124:19
		l	I	I .

133:13	oppose 134:4	O'Leary 4:17	46:3,9 57:9 79:20	percent 90:8
1	opposed 19:6 46:11	124:16	80:7,16,16,20	127:13
occur 11:24 103:5	152:11	AV	88:2 99:19 100:17	percentage 90:11
131:21,23	option 91:6,18,19	P	105:13 125:5	91:23 93:15 144:3
occurred 137:19	91:25 92:16 93:1	P 3:1,1	132:16 137:23	perceptions 59:13
occurring 103:13	100:1 105:22	page 4:2,5 7:9	146:12,19 147:2	perfect 45:24
120:10	133:2 142:14	18:15 30:17,17	147:11 166:23	perform 22:13
OCIJ 51:24	143:11	39:7,8 51:23	particularly 19:14	23:20,20 25:14
October 1:13 2:7	options 123:17	57:21 82:12 84:15	29:20 152:9	49:18 70:19 71:2
169:23 170:6	124:1 145:6	124:16 125:6,6	parties 132:14	71:12 76:23,24,25
offered 57:6 165:1	146:22 148:22,23	170:8	134:19 166:18	86:16 87:13 88:19
office 3:20 4:19	Oral 2:2	pages 58:2 171:5	169:16,18	107:18,21,24,24
15:12 17:10 79:22	Orange 92:9	palace 96:9	partly 71:20	110:4,9 111:4
81:21 133:3	oranges 107:10	panel 60:2 61:16	parts 73:12 146:20	139:14 142:16
136:22 145:4	order 18:22 19:2	62:12 65:19 82:17	146:21 159:14	151:22 153:8
147:13,24 149:21	66:15 80:2,16	82:22	party 95:7,10	performance
150:10 169:22	102:9 105:1 124:5	panels 63:21 64:4	pass 167:19	103:25 126:12
official 14:3 122:17	151:18 164:14	133:24	pass/fail 44:2	performed 86:17
officially 15:10	165:3	paper 105:7 121:24	patience 70:2	performing 15:3,9
okay 86:13 146:8	ordered 102:22	paragraph 18:16	pattern 98:1	15:11 23:13 48:8
OLAP 148:13,15	ordering 130:17	30:18 44:14,25	121:19 160:22	126:14 147:19
old 70:11 106:5	organizations 94:8	45:7 51:23	pause 52:16	period 14:11,21
161:25 162:23	139:5	paragraphs 32:17	pay 38:22	15:2,5 128:7
older 59:10 87:21	organizing 53:1	32:18	pending 6:21 69:13	perjury 7:4
olds 69:25,25 70:7	originally 72:18	parameters 95:4	132:23	PERLMAN 3:20
79:2,2 161:4,5	ORR 67:19,22,24	115:23	Pennsylvania	permanent 129:4
once 14:10 29:8	68:11,16,24 69:3	parent 55:4,16	13:11 17:3,5,6	permissible 119:5,7
37:9 109:6	72:25 73:1,7,13	74:10 89:2,6	39:25	119:8,9
ones 7:20 9:16,17	73:13,21,24,25	107:22 108:15	people 14:15 16:23	persecuted 98:5
10:17,18 30:10	74:2,3,5,12,13,22	110:5,20 111:5,11	21:2,20 23:13	persists 96:17
64:3 84:6 137:3	74:23 93:22	111:17 112:9	24:11 33:23 35:12	person 14:14,15
138:14 152:20	139:22 155:25	parents 33:10	35:18,21 36:3,6	16:25 17:9 22:14
	Osuna 4:10 16:20	35:12 93:3 98:17	37:1,11 46:7,8,8	22:14 28:16 42:3
on/robe 43:12	57:23	122:2 130:19	48:16 49:1,5,6	42:4 46:12 47:8,9
_ · · .	outcome 154:4	134:15	57:22 59:14 60:14	48:3 53:17 54:25
139:10	158:12	part 12:3 14:19	77:2 83:3 86:25	68:22 74:11 75:20
	outcomes 83:24	79:6 81:18 83:6	87:4 101:12	86:20,22 87:5,21
- ~	outlined 39:14,21	119:9 128:12	106:25 114:12,14	87:25 88:5,7,18
18:8	40:21	135:17 149:11	114:15,18,18,18	88:19,21,24 89:23
*	outside 24:1 25:11	162:15 164:23	121:13 126:3	89:25 90:2,10,12
operational 156:19	31:11 47:14 68:8	participated 36:18	130:18,18,25	95:19 101:13,15
operations 13:10	73:3 75:15 78:14	participation 101:2	136:8 139:9	101:25 106:20
opinion 48:11	83:13	101:6	140:23 141:25	107:12,13 109:11
•	verarching 77:10	particular 13:6	150:12 159:4,7,9	111:7 121:4,9
	overlying 26:2	15:24 19:12 26:20	159:14 163:9	133:25 137:17
opportunity 131:16 o	verrule 137:3	28:3,10 34:5	164:2 167:1	139:14 145:18
	versight 132:22	35:23 36:21 44:3	people's 18:24,24	146:16 151:22

153:5 162:17 personal 48:11 pointed 127:10 pointe					
personal 48.11 pointed 27:10 points 31:25,25 42:6 45:5 92:18 60:6,9,25 82:24 60:6,9,25 82:24 procedure 18:8 procedure 18:8 40:4 44:11 procedure 18:8 40:4 44:13 procedure 18:8 40:4 44:13 procedure 18:8 40:4 44:13 40:24 2:11:19:15 procedure 18:8 40:4 44:13 40:24 2:11:19:15 procedure 18:8 40:4 44:13 40:24 2:21:19:15 procedure 18:8 40:4 4:11 40:14 1:13 157:2 40:14 1:13 157:2 40:14 1:13 157:2 40:14 1:13 157:2 40:14 1:13 157:2 40:14 1:13 157:2 40:14 1:13 157:2 40:14 1:13 157:2 40:14 1:13 150:15 90:15 1:13 14:12 150:15 90:15 1:13 14:12 150:15 90:15 1:13 14:12 150:15 150:15 150:15 150:15 150:15 150:15 150:15 150:15 150:15 150:15	153:5 162:17	166:14	practice 37:9,25	presentation 59:5	problems 164:3
505.8,9,17,25	personal 48:11	pointed 127:10		60:6,9,25 82:24	procedure 18:8
51:2,6 112:25 personally 35:14 10:24,25 11:14 10:18,20,21 117:9,10,20 118:7 presented 8:23 34:17 36:10 39:21 18:1,11 21:4 26:2 117:9,10,20 118:7 presented 8:23 34:17 36:10 39:21 18:1,12 21:4 26:2 119:10,14,15 presenter 6:14 presenter 6:14 presenter 6:14 presenter 6:14 presenter 6:15,15,22,23 14:12 presiding 52:9,12 presiding 5	, -	-	103:12,20,21,23	82:24 92:21 159:5	40:4 44:11
Dersonally 35:14		-	1	presentations 61:3	procedures 4:7,20
181-11 21-4 26:2 117:9,10,20 118:7 presented 8:23 34:17 36:10 39:21 18:20 119:1,3,8 95:15,15 95:15,15 95:15,15 19:10 119:10,14,15 19:10 119:10,14,15 19:10 119:13,8 19:17 26:4 29:2 129:25 130:1 19:10 14:12 presenter 60:14 presenter 6			116:18,20,21	157:2	18:1 28:3 33:7
163:10	1 * ·	,	1	presented 8:23	34:17 36:10 39:21
Person's 76:2 130:24 policy 10:8,11,13 120:9 133:21 presenter 60:14 presenter 60:14 presenter 60:14 presenter 60:14 presenter 60:14 presenter 60:14 presenter 60:17 presenter 60:18 presenter 60:17 presenter 60:17 presenter 60:18 presenter 60:17 presenter 60:17 presenter 60:17 presenter 60:18 presenter 60:17 presenter 60:18 presenter 60:17 presenter 60:18 presenter 60:17 presenter 60:17 presenter 60:18 presenter 60:17 presenter 60:17 presenter 60:18 presenter 60:17 presenter 60:17 presenter 60:17 pres	163:10		1	60:12 82:17,23	43:14,16,21 76:6
Person's 76:2 130:24 policy 10:8,11,13 141:22 pretition 166:9 phenomenon 106:1 phone 157:3 29:2 129:25 130:1 33:7 33:7,19,25 physical 20:11 physics 23:8,8 population 154:11 populations 13:14 populatio	persons 38:7	29:15,19,22 30:1	119:10,14,15	95:15,15	83:23
111:12		1	1	presenter 60:14	proceed 36:16
petition 166:9 phenomenon 106:1 phenomenon 106:1 phone 157:3 phone 157:3 physical 20:11 physics 23:8,8 pisc 23:8,8 pick 50:20 80:6 pick 63:2:2 picture 155:23 15:7 16:7 17:8 pictures 96:4 24:12 27:2 40:2 picture 155:23 15:7 16:7 17:8 picture 96:4 24:12 27:2 40:2 pin 120:1 place 20:23 28:11 64:22 104:19 place 159:9 place ment 153:19 place 159:9 place 159:9 place 159:9 place 120:3 plantiffs 2:3 9:3 13:13 plasifies 54:2 play 96:9 108:22 play 96:9 108:22 play 96:9 108:22 play 96:9 108:22 play 13:2 posibil 15:3 pleading 89:7 101:8,9 112:14 playing 153:22 play 13:13 pleading 89:7 101:8,9 112:14 playing 153:22 posibil 20:20 point 20:20 60:11 17:7; 142:24 plates 22:1 134:20 point 20:20 point 20:20 60:11 70:12; 13:13 13:19 14:12 12:12 powers 104:41 precices 4:15 25:2 powers 104:4 precices 4:15 25:2 powers 104:4 precices 4:15 25:2 preciding 52:9,12 preciding 52:14:10:22:5 preciding 52:9,12 preciding 52:9,12 preciding 52:14:10:22:14:14:10:10:22:14:14:10:10:22:14:14:10:10:22:14:14:10:10:22:14:14:10:10:22:14:14:10:10:22:14:14:10:10:22:14:14:10:10:22:14:14:10:10:22:14:14:10:10:22:14:14:10:10:22:14:14:10:10:22:14:14:10:10:22:14:14:10:10:14:12:14:10:10:22:14:14:11:10:22:14:14:14:14:14:14:14:14:14	•	policy 10:8,11,13	141:22	presenters 65:17	65:15,15,22,23
phenomenon 106:1 phono 157:3 phono 157:3 phosica 23:8,8 physical 20:11 physica 20:12 picked 32:2 13:15,16,21 14:9 picture 155:23 15:7 167 17:8 picture 155:23 picture 155:23 picture 155:23 picture 155:23 picture 155:23 picture 156:20 precedent 117:16 place 20:23 28:11 64:22 104:19 portions 7:15 place 20:23 28:11 64:22 104:19 portions 7:15 place 20:23 28:11 64:22 104:19 portions 7:15 place 20:23 28:11 64:22 104:19 place 20:23 28:11 64:22 104:19 portions 7:15 place 20:23 28:11 64:22 104:19 portions 7:15 place 20:23 28:11 64:22 104:19 place 20:23 28:11 7 poses 12:12 place 20:23 28:11 64:22 104:19 place 20:23 28:11 7 poses 12:12 place 20:23 28:11 7 poses 12:12 place 20:23 28:11 64:22 104:19 portions 7:15 place 117:47 118:8,23 plans 103:25 play 96:9 108:22 positions 12:13 preschool 79:1 presence 101:4,11 preschool 79:1 preschool	petition 166:9	_	practices 4:15 25:2	preserved 29:9	66:10 70:21 71:6
phone 157:3 physical 20:11 physics 23:8,8 pick 50:20 80:6 picked 32:2 picture 155:23 pictures 96:4 24:12 27:2 40:2 Picke 3:21 pin 120:1 place 20:23 28:11 de:22 portion 52:12 portion 52:12 place 159:9 plain 42:25 69:16 plain	•	18:8 19:17 26:4	30:7 33:7,19,25	presiding 52:9,12	71:7 77:2,7 90:1
physical 20:11 physics 23:8,8 pick 50:20 80:6 populations 13:14 picked 3:2 pick 50:20 80:6 populations 13:14 def:11 7:17 12:2 picture 155:23	. ^	29:2 129:25 130:1	1		102:25 104:12
physics 23:8,8 pick 50:20 80:6 population 154:11 populations 13:14 populations 13:15 populations 13:14 populations 13:15 populations 13:15 populations 13:14 populations 13:14 populations 13:14 populations 13:15 populations 13:15 populations 13:15 populations 13:15 populations 13:16 populations 1	1 -		1	pretend 117:15	105:20 106:8
pick 50:20 80:6 picked 32:2 picked 32:2 populations 13:14 picked 32:2 64:11 76:7 124:2 125:2 140:10 142:7 143:19 166:17 143:19 165:18 143:19 140:18 143:14:18 143:	A *			1 ^	108:5,11 109:7,20
picked 32:2 picture 155:23 13:15,16,21 14:9 15:7 16:7 17:8 15:7 16:7 17:8 24:12 27:2 40:2 preamble 38:16 39:5 113:3,4 precedent 117:16 13:19 136:6 primarily 115:5 preceding 9:20,21 prin 120:1 place 20:23 28:11 64:22 104:19 portion 52:12 postion 15:11 place 159:9 pose 13:17 poses 121:2 postion 15:11 31:20 45:11 47:16 lalintiffs 2:3 9:3 Plaintiffs-Petitio 15:3:2 planet 20:3 planes 103:25 play 96:9 108:22 play 15:7:25 place 22:113 4:20 place 22:113 4:20 postiblities 54:4 pleading 89:7 78:19 140:18 114:2 149:13 117:24 pleading 89:7 78:19 140:18 114:2 149:13 117:24 pleading 89:7 78:19 140:18 114:1 114:1,3 117:24 pleading 89:7 78:19 140:18 114:1 17:24 pleading 89:7 78:19 140:18 113:19 14:1 17:24 pleading 89:7 78:19 140:18 114:1 114	1	1	64:11 76:7 124:2	1 2	125:14 126:19
picture 155:23 pictures 96:4 15:7 16:7 17:8 24:12 27:2 40:2 77:11 112:1 150:10 131:19 136:6 preamble 38:16 39:5 113:3,4 primarily 115:5 120:10 prevalence 57:12 previously 7:6 primarily 115:5 128:4 primarily 115:5 128:19 12:2 primarily 115:5 128:19 12:1 12:2 primarily 115:5 128:19 12:2 primarily 115:5 128:19 12:1 128:19 12:1 128:19 12:2 primarily 115:5 128:19 12:1 128:19 12:1 128:1 12:1 12:1 12:1 12:1 12:1 12:	1 ^	1		143:19 166:17	145:16 146:7,8
pictures 96:4 24:12 27:2 40:2 77:11 112:1 preamble 38:16 39:5 113:3,4 precedent 117:16 primarily 115:5 previously 7:6 primarily 115:5 161:10 proceeding 9:20,21 11:23 13:19 18:22 precedent 17:16 precedent 17:16 precedent 17:16 precedent 17:16 precedent 17:16 precedent 15:10 protion 52:12 protion 52:12 predicate 7:16 116:1 164:14 print 16:19 129:5 printing 169:11 prepare 8:18 12:3 prepare 8:18 82:3 preparing 61:23 preparing 61:23 preparing 61:23 preschool 79:1 preschool 17:11 16:22 prossibly 121:20 posibly 121:20 prossibly 121:20 prosted 166:24 prossibly 121:20 prosent 38:16 approach 38:16 printing 169:11 print	1 -		131:19 136:6	prevalence 57:12	151:12,20 153.9
Pike 3:21 pin 120:1 77:11 112:1 39:5 113:3,4 precedent 117:16 precedent 117:16 place 20:23 28:11 64:22 104:19 portions 7:15 pose 13:17 poses 121:2 position 15:11 place 159:9 plain 42:25 69:16 plaintiffs 2:3 9:3 plaintiffs-Petitio 1:5 3:2 play 96:9 108:22 playing 153:22 playing 153:22 playing 157:3 pleading 89:7 101:8,9 112:14 114:13 117:24 plaintiffs 2:2:14,17 142:14 preschool 79:1 p	1 ~	24:12 27:2 40:2	preamble 38:16	. ~	161:10
place 20:23 28:11 portion 52:12 predicate 76:16 principles 21:4 place 20:23 28:14 portions 7:15 predicate 76:16 principles 21:4 place 13:23 pose 13:17 printing 16:19 posi 11:1 prior 12:23:25:22 positin 12:23 prior 12:23:52:22 pr	•	77:11 112:1	39:5 113:3,4	primarily 115:5	proceeding 9:20,21
place 20:23 28:11 portion 52:12 predicate 76:16 principles 21:4 19:1,23 24:6,17 64:22 104:19 postions 7:15 postions 7:15 postion 16:11 165:3 principles 21:4 Print 16:19 129:5 24:18 25:17 26:5 22:18 25:17 26:5 27:7,23 28:13,17 24:18 25:17 26:5 27:7,23 28:13,17 37:16 38:18 41:18 27:7,23 28:13,17 37:16 38:18 41:18 27:7,23 28:13,17 37:16 38:18 41:18 27:7,23 28:13,17 37:16 38:18 41:18 27:7,23 28:13,17 37:16 38:18 41:18 27:7,23 28:13,17 37:16 38:18 41:18 27:7,23 28:13,17 37:16 38:18 41:18 27:7,23 28:13,17 41:21 42:18 54:21 25:15,25 137:10 41:21 42:18 54:21 25:15,25 137:10 41:21 42:18 54:21 25:15,16 66:3 55:15,16 66:3 69:6 70:24 71:3 71:19 72:18 77:4 71:19 72:18 77:4 77:24 78:24 84:23 77:24 78:24 84:23 77:24 78:24 84:23 77:24 78:24 84:23 77:24 78:24 84:23 77:24 78:24 84:23 77:24 78:24 84:23 77:24 78:24 84:23 77:24 78:24 84:23 77:24 78:24 84:23 77:24 78:24 84:23 77:14 79:9,18,21 77:19 99:14 78:17 99:9,18,21 98:22 167:14 78:17 79:9,18,21 91:19 93:1 109:14 136:2 141:1 153:25 153:	pin 120:1	150:10	precedent 117:16	128:4	11:23 13:19 18:22
64:22 104:19 138:4 169:9 placement 153:19 places 159:9 plain 42:25 69:16 plainiffs 2:3 9:3 Plainiffs-Petitio 1:5 3:2 planet 20:3 plans 103:25 playing 153:22 playing 153:24 playing 153:25 printing 169:11 prior 12:23 52:22 proparation 12:4 prepared 21:17 pro 45:9,12,14,18 45:22,25 46:4,8 47:24 78:24 84:23 preparing 61:23 preschool 79:1 preschool 79	1 ^	portion 52:12	1 -	principles 21:4	19:1,23 24:6,17
138:4 169:9 pose 13:17 pose 13:17 pose 13:17 poses 121:2 position 15:11 plain 42:25 69:16 plainiffs 2:3 9:3 49:23 88:15 90:23 108:7 112:4 prepare 8:18 12:3 140:8 prepared 21:17 153:2 plain 103:25 plain 103:25 play 96:9 108:22 play 96:9 108:22 play 96:13 123:22 play 96:157:3 pposible 56:8 78:17 plaining 169:11 prior 12:23 52:22 133:20 prepared 21:17 prior 12:23 52:22 125:15,25 137:10 41:21 4:18 54:21 prior 12:23 52:22 125:15,16 66:3 privilege 6:13 69:6 70:24 71:3 privilege 6:13 pro 45:9,12,14,18 45:22,25 46:4,8 77:24 78:24 84:23 preparing 61:23 preschool 79:1 preschool	-	1 ~	116:1 164:14	Print 16:19 129:5	24:18 25:17 26:5
placement 153:19 places 159:9 poses 121:2 position 15:11 predicates 115:8 preparation 12:4 prepare 8:18 12:3 prior 12:23 52:22 12:5,25 137:10 37:16 38:18 41:18 41:18 41:18 41:21 42:18 54:21 plain 42:25 69:16 plaintiffs 2:3 9:3 49:23 88:15 90:23 140:8 prepared 21:17 Priorities 4:16 privilege 6:13 provilege 6:1	138:4 169:9		165:3	printing 169:11	27:7,23 28:13,17
places 159:9 position 15:11 preparation 12:4 125:15,25 137:10 41:21 42:18 54:21 plaintiffs 2:3 9:3 Plaintiffs-Petitio 108:7 112:4 prepare 8:18 12:3 140:8 privilege 6:13 55:15,16 66:3 69:6 70:24 71:3 71:19 72:18 77:4 1:5 3:2 plant 20:3 117:4,7 118:8,23 prepared 21:17 81:18 82:3 pro 45:9,12,14,18 71:19 72:18 77:4 71:19 72:18 77:4 play 96:9 108:22 positions 12:13 123:22 posiblities 54:4 preschool 79:1 48:24 62:18 63:10 136:2 141:1 110:24 119:22 playing 153:22 possible 56:8 78:17 78:19 140:18 101:13,18,25 91:19 93:1 109:14 159:24 proceedings 19:14 Pleading 89:7 101:8,9 112:14 141:2 149:13 104:10 107:11 163:20,21 166:5 25:4 26:16 36:3 please 22:1 134:20 possibly 121:20 possibly 121:20 posted 166:24 present 38:5,9 92:17 97:20 64:14 81:16 120:13 139:24 153:21 148:21 151:24 127:7 142:24 PowerPoint 59:24 59:25 123:16,20,22 problem 101:7 166:12 133:15 41:2,3 61:9 94:3 <td>placement 153:19</td> <td>_</td> <td>predicates 115:8</td> <td>prior 12:23 52:22</td> <td>37:16 38:18 41:18</td>	placement 153:19	_	predicates 115:8	prior 12:23 52:22	37:16 38:18 41:18
plain 42:25 69:16 plaintiffs 2:3 9:3 31:20 45:11 47:16 prepare 8:18 12:3 prepare 8:18 12:3 pro 45:9,12,14,18 for 45:9,12,14,18 for 69:6 70:24 71:3 pro 45:9,12,14,18 for 69:6 70:24 71:3 for 69:6 7	1 -		preparation 12:4	125:15,25 137:10	41:21 42:18 54:21
Plaintiffs-Petitio 108:7 112:4 prepared 21:17 pro 45:9,12,14,18 71:19 72:18 77:4 1:5 3:2 114:25 115:1,2,24 81:18 82:3 45:22,25 46:4,8 77:24 78:24 84:23 planet 20:3 117:4,7 118:8,23 preparing 61:23 46:10,11,11,17,21 110:24 119:22 play 96:9 108:22 positions 12:13 preschool 79:1 48:24 62:18 63:10 136:2 141:1 112:9 possibilities 54:4 presence 101:4,11 78:17 79:9,18,21 153:15 157:20 Playskool 157:3 possible 56:8 78:17 102:6,20,21 142:22 147:1 163:20,21 166:5 25:4 26:16 36:3 101:8,9 112:14 141:2 149:13 108:8 111:11,23 166:19,24 probably 15:18 25:4 26:16 36:3 14:1,3 117:24 possibly 121:20 posted 166:24 present 38:5,9 92:17 97:20 64:14 81:16 148:21 151:24 98:23 113:13 14:1 101:18 121:13 156:21 process 21:5,22 127:7 142:24 PowerPoint 59:24 123:16,20,22 problem 101:7 26:3 27:20 39:18 145:12 146:5,14 powers 104:4 144:5 146:12 134:5,11,13 152:4 <td< td=""><td>1 -</td><td>_</td><td>1</td><td>Priorities 4:16</td><td>55:15,16 66:3</td></td<>	1 -	_	1	Priorities 4:16	55:15,16 66:3
Plaintiffs-Petitio 108:7 112:4 prepared 21:17 pro 45:9,12,14,18 71:19 72:18 77:4 1:5 3:2 114:25 115:1,2,24 81:18 82:3 pro 45:9,12,14,18 77:24 78:24 84:23 planet 20:3 117:4,7 118:8,23 preparing 61:23 46:10,11,11,17,21 110:24 119:22 play 96:9 108:22 positions 12:13 preschool 79:1 48:24 62:18 63:10 136:2 141:1 112:9 123:22 possibilities 54:4 presence 101:4,11 78:17 79:9,18,21 153:15 157:20 Playskool 157:3 possible 56:8 78:17 101:13,18,25 91:19 93:1 109:14 159:24 Pleading 89:7 78:19 140:18 104:10 107:11 163:20,21 166:5 25:4 26:16 36:3 101:8,9 112:14 141:2 149:13 108:8 111:11,23 166:19,24 probably 15:18 please 22:1 134:20 possibly 121:20 posted 166:24 present 38:5,9 64:14 81:16 120:13 139:24 98:23 113:13 14:1 101:18 121:13 156:21 process 21:5,22 127:7 142:24 PowerPoint 59:24 123:16,20,22 problem 101:7 26:3 27:20 39:18 145:12 146:5,14 </td <td>1 *</td> <td>49:23 88:15 90:23</td> <td>;</td> <td>privilege 6:13</td> <td>69:6 70:24 71:3</td>	1 *	49:23 88:15 90:23	;	privilege 6:13	69:6 70:24 71:3
1:5 3:2 114:25 115:1,2,24 81:18 82:3 45:22,25 46:4,8 77:24 78:24 84:23 planet 20:3 117:4,7 118:8,23 preparing 61:23 46:10,11,11,17,21 110:24 119:22 play 96:9 108:22 122:14,17 142:2 98:22 167:14 47:1,11,23 48:22 130:10 133:10 playing 153:22 positions 12:13 presence 101:4,11 78:17 79:9,18,21 153:15 157:20 playing 153:22 possiblities 54:4 presence 101:4,11 91:19 93:1 109:14 159:24 pleading 89:7 78:19 140:18 104:10 107:11 163:20,21 166:5 159:24 please 22:1 134:20 possibly 121:20 possibly 121:20 present 38:5,9 point 20:20 60:11 posted 166:24 present 38:5,9 64:14 81:16 153:21 127:7 142:24 powerPoint 59:24 123:16,20,22 120:13 139:24 153:21 143:23 144:19 59:25 124:1 140:13 106:12 133:15 106:12 133:15 145:12 146:5,14 powers 104:4 144:5 146:12 134:5,11,13 152:4 105:21 122:20	1 ^	108:7 112:4	prepared 21:17	pro 45:9,12,14,18	71:19 72:18 77:4
plans 103:25 122:14,17 142:2 98:22 167:14 47:1,11,23 48:22 130:10 133:10 play 96:9 108:22 123:22 positions 12:13 preschool 79:1 48:24 62:18 63:10 136:2 141:1 playing 153:22 possible 56:8 78:17 possible 56:8 78:17 possible 56:8 78:17 101:13,18,25 91:19 93:1 109:14 153:15 157:20 pleading 89:7 78:19 140:18 104:10 107:11 163:20,21 166:5 25:4 26:16 36:3 101:8,9 112:14 141:2 149:13 108:8 111:11,23 166:19,24 probably 15:18 60:3 74:24 89:6 please 22:1 134:20 possibly 121:20 posted 166:24 present 38:5,9 64:14 81:16 120:13 139:24 148:21 151:24 posted 166:24 potential 13:19 92:17 97:20 120:13 139:24 153:21 process 21:5,22 98:23 113:13 14:1 101:18 121:13 156:21 process 21:5,22 143:23 144:19 59:25 124:1 140:13 106:12 133:15 106:12 133:15 41:2,3 61:9 94:3 145:12 146:5,14 powers 104:4 144:5 146:12 134:5,11,13 152:4 105:21 122:20	1:5 3:2	114:25 115:1,2,24			77:24 78:24 84:23
plans 103:25 122:14,17 142:2 98:22 167:14 47:1,11,23 48:22 130:10 133:10 play 96:9 108:22 positions 12:13 preschool 79:1 48:24 62:18 63:10 136:2 141:1 playing 153:22 possiblities 54:4 presence 101:4,11 78:17 79:9,18,21 153:15 157:20 Playskool 157:3 possible 56:8 78:17 78:19 140:18 102:6,20,21 142:22 147:1 proceedings 19:14 pleading 89:7 78:19 140:18 104:10 107:11 163:20,21 166:5 25:4 26:16 36:3 112:14 141:2 149:13 108:8 111:11,23 166:19,24 probably 15:18 60:3 74:24 89:6 please 22:1 134:20 possibly 121:20 posted 166:24 present 38:5,9 64:14 81:16 120:13 139:24 148:21 151:24 please 23: 113:13 14:1 101:18 121:13 156:21 process 21:5,22 point 20:20 60:11 potential 13:19 92:17 97:20 120:13 139:24 153:21 process 21:5,22 98:23 113:13 14:1 101:18 121:13 156:21 process 21:5,22 143:23 144:19 59:25 124:1 140:13 106:12 133:15 106:12	planet 20:3		preparing 61:23	46:10,11,11,17,21	110:24 119:22
play 96:9 108:22 positions 12:13 preschool 79:1 48:24 62:18 63:10 136:2 141:1 playing 153:22 possibilities 54:4 possibilities 54:4 possible 56:8 78:17 101:13,18,25 91:19 93:1 109:14 159:24 pleading 89:7 78:19 140:18 104:10 107:11 163:20,21 166:5 25:4 26:16 36:3 101:8,9 112:14 141:2 149:13 108:8 111:11,23 166:19,24 proceedings 19:14 please 22:1 134:20 possibly 121:20 possibly 121:20 present 38:5,9 present 38:5,9 64:14 81:16 120:13 139:24 153:21 potential 13:19 14:1 101:18 121:13 156:21 process 21:5,22 143:23 144:19 59:25 124:1 140:13 106:12 133:15 41:2,3 61:9 94:3 145:12 146:5,14 powers 104:4 144:5 146:12 136:2 186:10 78:17 79:9,18,21 159:24 proceedings 19:14 159:24 proceedings 19:14 142:22 147:1 163:20,21 166:5 25:4 26:16 36:3 166:19,24 probably 15:18 21:16 51:20 60:22 91:24 130:23 148:21 151:24 150:21 process 21:5,22	1 ^			47:1,11,23 48:22	130:10 133:10
playing 153:22 possibilities 54:4 101:13,18,25 91:19 93:1 109:14 159:24 Playskool 157:3 possible 56:8 78:17 78:19 140:18 102:6,20,21 142:22 147:1 proceedings 19:14 101:8,9 112:14 141:2 149:13 108:8 111:11,23 166:19,24 probably 15:18 37:12 42:21 43:19 please 22:1 134:20 possibly 121:20 posted 166:24 present 38:5,9 64:14 81:16 91:24 130:23 point 20:20 60:11 potential 13:19 92:17 97:20 120:13 139:24 153:21 98:23 113:13 14:1 101:18 121:13 156:21 process 21:5,22 143:23 144:19 59:25 124:1 140:13 106:12 133:15 41:2,3 61:9 94:3 145:12 146:5,14 powers 104:4 144:5 146:12 134:5,11,13 152:4 105:21 122:20	play 96:9 108:22	•	preschool 79:1	48:24 62:18 63:10	136:2 141:1
Playskool 157:3 possible 56:8 78:17 102:6,20,21 142:22 147:1 proceedings 19:14 pleading 89:7 78:19 140:18 104:10 107:11 163:20,21 166:5 25:4 26:16 36:3 101:8,9 112:14 141:2 149:13 108:8 111:11,23 166:19,24 37:12 42:21 43:19 please 22:1 134:20 possibly 121:20 possibly 121:20 probably 15:18 60:3 74:24 89:6 point 20:20 60:11 posted 166:24 present 38:5,9 64:14 81:16 148:21 151:24 98:23 113:13 14:1 101:18 121:13 156:21 process 21:5,22 127:7 142:24 PowerPoint 59:24 123:16,20,22 problem 101:7 26:3 27:20 39:18 143:23 144:19 59:25 124:1 140:13 106:12 133:15 41:2,3 61:9 94:3 145:12 146:5,14 powers 104:4 144:5 146:12 134:5,11,13 152:4 105:21 122:20	112:9	123:22	presence 101:4,11	78:17 79:9,18,21	153:15 157:20
Playskool 157:3 possible 56:8 78:17 102:6,20,21 142:22 147:1 proceedings 19:14 pleading 89:7 78:19 140:18 104:10 107:11 163:20,21 166:5 25:4 26:16 36:3 101:8,9 112:14 141:2 149:13 108:8 111:11,23 166:19,24 37:12 42:21 43:19 114:1,3 117:24 possibly 121:20 possibly 121:20 probably 15:18 60:3 74:24 89:6 please 22:1 134:20 posted 166:24 present 38:5,9 64:14 81:16 91:24 130:23 point 20:20 60:11 potential 13:19 92:17 97:20 120:13 139:24 153:21 98:23 113:13 14:1 101:18 121:13 156:21 process 21:5,22 127:7 142:24 PowerPoint 59:24 123:16,20,22 problem 101:7 26:3 27:20 39:18 145:12 146:5,14 powers 104:4 144:5 146:12 134:5,11,13 152:4 105:21 122:20	playing 153:22	possibilities 54:4	101:13,18,25	91:19 93:1 109:14	159:24
101:8,9 112:14 141:2 149:13 108:8 111:11,23 166:19,24 37:12 42:21 43:19 114:1,3 117:24 157:25 114:12 121:4,8 probably 15:18 60:3 74:24 89:6 please 22:1 134:20 possibly 121:20 posted 166:24 present 38:5,9 64:14 81:16 91:24 130:23 point 20:20 60:11 potential 13:19 92:17 97:20 120:13 139:24 153:21 98:23 113:13 14:1 101:18 121:13 156:21 process 21:5,22 127:7 142:24 PowerPoint 59:24 123:16,20,22 problem 101:7 26:3 27:20 39:18 143:23 144:19 59:25 124:1 140:13 106:12 133:15 41:2,3 61:9 94:3 145:12 146:5,14 powers 104:4 144:5 146:12 134:5,11,13 152:4 105:21 122:20		possible 56:8 78:17	102:6,20,21	142:22 147:1	proceedings 19:14
101:8,9 112:14 141:2 149:13 108:8 111:11,23 166:19,24 37:12 42:21 43:19 114:1,3 117:24 157:25 114:12 121:4,8 probably 15:18 60:3 74:24 89:6 please 22:1 134:20 possibly 121:20 posted 166:24 present 38:5,9 64:14 81:16 91:24 130:23 point 20:20 60:11 potential 13:19 92:17 97:20 120:13 139:24 153:21 98:23 113:13 14:1 101:18 121:13 156:21 process 21:5,22 127:7 142:24 PowerPoint 59:24 123:16,20,22 problem 101:7 26:3 27:20 39:18 143:23 144:19 59:25 124:1 140:13 106:12 133:15 41:2,3 61:9 94:3 145:12 146:5,14 powers 104:4 144:5 146:12 134:5,11,13 152:4 105:21 122:20		•	104:10 107:11	163:20,21 166:5	25:4 26:16 36:3
114:1,3 117:24 157:25 114:12 121:4,8 probably 15:18 60:3 74:24 89:6 please 22:1 134:20 possibly 121:20 130:3 21:16 51:20 60:22 91:24 130:23 point 20:20 60:11 posted 166:24 present 38:5,9 64:14 81:16 148:21 151:24 70:12,14,25 94:5 potential 13:19 92:17 97:20 120:13 139:24 153:21 98:23 113:13 14:1 101:18 121:13 156:21 process 21:5,22 127:7 142:24 PowerPoint 59:24 123:16,20,22 problem 101:7 26:3 27:20 39:18 143:23 144:19 59:25 124:1 140:13 106:12 133:15 41:2,3 61:9 94:3 145:12 146:5,14 powers 104:4 144:5 146:12 134:5,11,13 152:4 105:21 122:20	1 ~	141:2 149:13	108:8 111:11,23	166:19,24	37:12 42:21 43:19
please 22:1 134:20 possibly 121:20 130:3 21:16 51:20 60:22 91:24 130:23 point 20:20 60:11 posted 166:24 present 38:5,9 64:14 81:16 148:21 151:24 70:12,14,25 94:5 potential 13:19 92:17 97:20 120:13 139:24 153:21 98:23 113:13 14:1 101:18 121:13 156:21 process 21:5,22 127:7 142:24 PowerPoint 59:24 123:16,20,22 problem 101:7 26:3 27:20 39:18 143:23 144:19 59:25 124:1 140:13 106:12 133:15 41:2,3 61:9 94:3 145:12 146:5,14 powers 104:4 144:5 146:12 134:5,11,13 152:4 105:21 122:20	· ·	157:25	114:12 121:4,8	probably 15:18	60:3 74:24 89:6
point 20:20 60:11 posted 166:24 present 38:5,9 64:14 81:16 148:21 151:24 70:12,14,25 94:5 potential 13:19 92:17 97:20 120:13 139:24 153:21 98:23 113:13 14:1 101:18 121:13 156:21 process 21:5,22 127:7 142:24 PowerPoint 59:24 123:16,20,22 problem 101:7 26:3 27:20 39:18 143:23 144:19 59:25 124:1 140:13 106:12 133:15 41:2,3 61:9 94:3 145:12 146:5,14 powers 104:4 144:5 146:12 134:5,11,13 152:4 105:21 122:20	,	possibly 121:20	I .	21:16 51:20 60:22	91:24 130:23
98:23 113:13 14:1 101:18 121:13 156:21 process 21:5,22 127:7 142:24 PowerPoint 59:24 123:16,20,22 problem 101:7 26:3 27:20 39:18 143:23 144:19 59:25 124:1 140:13 106:12 133:15 41:2,3 61:9 94:3 145:12 146:5,14 powers 104:4 144:5 146:12 134:5,11,13 152:4 105:21 122:20	, -	,	present 38:5,9	64:14 81:16	148:21 151:24
98:23 113:13 14:1 101:18 121:13 156:21 process 21:5,22 127:7 142:24 PowerPoint 59:24 123:16,20,22 problem 101:7 26:3 27:20 39:18 143:23 144:19 59:25 124:1 140:13 106:12 133:15 41:2,3 61:9 94:3 145:12 146:5,14 powers 104:4 144:5 146:12 134:5,11,13 152:4 105:21 122:20	1 °	l •	92:17 97:20	120:13 139:24	153:21
143:23 144:19 59:25 124:1 140:13 106:12 133:15 41:2,3 61:9 94:3 145:12 146:5,14 powers 104:4 144:5 146:12 134:5,11,13 152:4 105:21 122:20		ı -	101:18 121:13	156:21	process 21:5,22
143:23 144:19 59:25 124:1 140:13 106:12 133:15 41:2,3 61:9 94:3 145:12 146:5,14 powers 104:4 144:5 146:12 134:5,11,13 152:4 105:21 122:20	127:7 142:24	PowerPoint 59:24	123:16,20,22	problem 101:7	26:3 27:20 39:18
riotis rioto, ri	143:23 144:19	59:25	* *	106:12 133:15	41:2,3 61:9 94:3
· IA I	1	powers 104:4	144:5 146:12	134:5,11,13 152:4	105:21 122:20
	1	_	160:24	, .	137:6,8 138:2
		 ^		l .	

			1	1
143:1 166:3	78:7 79:17 80:8	165:18 167:9	quickly 81:1	101:15,19,25
produced 52:22	88:22 98:7 101:19	purposes 12:12	112:13 125:8,11	102:3 107:24
138:25	108:1 111:2,9,13	23:3 31:4 32:10	141:1	109:23 111:7
Professional 2:4	121:11 122:8	73:16 81:25	quite 12:21 92:11	115:1 121:9 125:9
169:4	149:15 150:18	109:19 165:20		126:6 128:7 131:1
professionalism	151:21	pursue 99:4,5	R	131:4 135:18
62:1	protections 27:8	163:18	R 3:1 169:1	139:5,9,14 142:18
program 4:12	28:12,19 71:1,13	pushing 136:14	raise 124:2	142:20 147:22
60:24 61:14 81:3	71:17 72:1,10,16	put 16:4 28:11 37:1	raised 148:14	151:4 153:2,5,13
81:14 83:7 158:7	77:9 80:17 111:20	37:17 44:13 48:15	range 33:23 34:20	154:1,14,17
158:22	153:4 155:4,7	51:17,20 54:17	35:3,7,11,23	158:10 161:7
programmatic	166:16	59:21 62:5 63:22	36:21 88:16 112:7	165:13
155:7 156:22,25	protocols 23:24	80:25 104:20	123:16 139:9	realm 120:12
programs 79:22	prove 66:15	130:23 131:4	rare 55:22 57:15	reason 5:25 6:20,24
91:22 94:25 139:4	provide 18:10	puts 43:8	rating 126:13	12:14,16,24 26:6
140:2,3,10 141:14	30:14 44:20 46:22	putting 15:19	rationale 32:11,23	27:13 30:10 34:1
147:13,25 150:11	46:23 81:20 120:5	p.m 2:8 83:8,8	42:15 114:8,10	36:25 44:19 62:14
156:11 158:1,13	127:19 144:2	143:4,4 168:3	126:11 145:20	63:22 71:20 91:8
prohibit 97:23	157:15 159:24	P.O 3:16	reach 65:12 79:22	94:23 96:11 104:9
113:11 116:9	167:4		94:5 147:12 148:7	125:4 131:23
119:13	provided 30:6	Q	148:9,17	152:8 170:8
prohibited 107:8	51:25 52:18	qualifying 116:22	reached 164:24	reasonable 133:5
116:23	102:18 115:15	question 6:21 12:15	reaches 147:17	143:15 162:13
prohibiting 117:4	132:15	19:7,10 29:17,21	react 59:12	reasons 71:22
prohibition 89:12	provides 17:17	31:12,20 32:6	read 8:20 12:11	76:15 152:12
114:6,7 116:12	25:15 33:17 144:7	34:3,3 35:2,2	33:22 34:4 70:9	recalendar 132:5
prohibitions 123:4	providing 29:20	36:14 46:2 51:7	73:10 113:3,3	recall 5:12 7:21
promise 131:1	127:1	54:22 68:2,6 73:5	115:19 116:9	12:17 13:1 14:11
150:14	proving 66:11	73:12 97:1 100:5	168:1 171:5	44:12,21 59:20
promote 44:24	provision 130:9	103:2 107:25	reading 36:1 40:15	60:8,12,13,17,24
proof 66:17 144:14	psychiatry 21:19	108:21 109:11,23	113:14 134:3,4	61:1,5 63:4,21
145:3	psychological	115:25 117:3	169:14	64:16 68:25 69:1
proper 67:2 69:5	20:11	121:2 122:13,15	real 49:11 68:22	74:20 75:1,7 86:5
73:19 105:7,16	psychologists 21:20	122:15,18 135:17	115:18	127:10 167:16
108:24	psychology 70:6	157:17 159:21	realign 129:19	recalling 72:23
properly 134:15	Public 2:5 3:10	166:7	realize 158:20	receipt 144:14,16
propounded 171:7	92:7 169:5 171:19	questioning 83:10	reallocate 126:17	145:7,9
pros 98:21	publications 85:1	97:24 116:21,24	reallocated 124:24	receive 36:5 67:18
prosecutorial	published 84:17,20	118:21	really 10:5,8 17:13	67:20,22,25 69:20
152:6,11	84:24 85:3,5	questions 6:11 8:14	22:11 26:14 29:4	received 72:21
protect 30:7 55:24	135:22	8:21 10:17 31:15	32:18 42:9 43:2	74:14 91:14
131:3	pull 64:24 90:18	54:14 82:23 86:11	43:10 57:15 59:14	144:10
protecting 152:23	132:24 147:20	91:18 112:22	64:24 65:10 67:9	receiving 68:25
158:23	pulling 167:10	115:4 117:23	69:5 76:1,11	125:16
protection 13:18	purpose 36:2 81:15	118:3 138:17	77:10 80:5 84:7	Recess 83:8 143:4
39:3 63:1 71:4,14	81:17 112:24	154:13 155:2	86:18 89:9 91:16	recognize 54:12
71:19 73:19 74:10	113:6,9,10 125:10	167:22 171:7	97:3,19 98:1,4,4	81:8
		.		

Recognizing 63:3	regarding 10:8,10	97:7,11 98:15,20	109:18 137:4	68:14,18 69:15
recollection 5:15	10:25 24:5 36:19	98:21,21 99:4,5	141:7 148:6	requirements
44:13 61:2,16	47:20,23 54:22	99:16,23 133:5	representation	40:23 66:3,25
recommend 27:1	67:1,2 114:4	143:12,15,16	45:13 46:10 47:2	105:3
recommendation	115:15,22 118:3	151:19 153:10,12	47:11,23 48:23,25	requires 76:15
94:16,20	122:3 133:16	161:9 162:13,21	61:12,13 62:14,15	105:19 114:21
recommendations	138:25	remain 42:21	62:17,18,19,20,25	153:6
24:5 25:15 33:17	regardless 27:22	remand 71:24 72:6	63:8,11 78:11	requiring 101:4
36:6 39:1,2 40:25	36:4 38:8 45:4,6	remarkable 12:21	79:10,17 80:3	102:6 144:6
44:20 64:12 84:17	69:8 70:22 77:13	remedy 151:15	91:20 95:17	rescheduled 55:23
84:20,25 85:3,8	108:14 110:3	remember 10:18	142:22 145:19	56:4
85:13,15	128:21	11:1,19 12:18	147:1 148:22	research 119:6,23
recommending	region 147:12	59:4,6 60:20,21	149:4 160:17	researched 121:21
85:20	Registered 2:4	60:21 61:11,17,18	163:17 164:8,12	researching 120:2
record 5:7 6:17	169:4	61:22 62:11 65:19	164:15 165:7	resolve 94:14 98:18
7:24 8:1 73:10	regs 101:24	66:2 67:4 82:20	representational	99:2,25 100:3
81:1 98:4 127:25	regular 33:18	86:3 126:8 137:14	149:19	resource 61:10
128:2 142:25	132:2,11 141:14	141:16	representations	78:6 156:10
162:14 167:18	148:15,16	remembered	130:21	161:11 167:5
169:12	regulation 31:19	163:13 166:12	representative	resources 45:9,18
recorded 169:10	32:10 37:8,18	remembering	46:18 50:5,8,10	45:22 61:12 62:13
recording 103:10	101:7,20 103:4	67:11	50:18 51:1,2,6	62:19 63:10,11,12
redo 77:21	104:3 116:9	reminds 163:13	79:4,21 95:24	64:25 79:19 80:14
redraft 21:3	118:14,16 121:3	removability 87:23	96:6 99:1 112:4	112:2,7 124:23
reduced 169:11	121:12	88:12 90:14	149:3	126:17 132:6
refer 20:9 37:1,2	regulations 30:20	113:12 115:14	representatives	148:11 149:13
51:5 92:24 94:3	30:23 31:5,17	118:2 120:20	78:18 166:20	160:25 163:5,21
142:21 148:3	32:3 69:15 104:5	removal 41:6	represented 38:1	164:4 165:14
reference 33:13	130:9	145:17 146:4	45:10,23 78:20	166:2,5,8 167:10
51:24 112:23	regulatory 113:1	remove 25:20,21	92:19	167:13,17
referral 148:19	115:7 123:4	41:13 105:1	representing 95:16	respect 94:20 99:3
referrals 93:5	reinforce 127:18	removed 102:9	109:8	109:17 125:18
referred 75:4	reissued 128:6	151:18	request 65:23	128:15
138:19 148:18	related 4:16 17:14	removing 41:16	91:14 96:13 99:16	respective 169:16
referring 10:13	relates 37:6 132:10	renders 119:22	requested 84:10	respond 6:15 19:1
35:11,11 85:15,17	relating 101:8	Rene 61:17	requests 93:6 99:17	respondent 18:19
91:6 134:13	127:9	reopen 106:18	99:18	19:10,20 24:9,16
refers 34:9 84:19	relationship 87:14	repatriation 96:2	require 72:14	26:6,15 27:9,22
137:5	88:6	repeat 73:9 154:8	101:2,6 105:21	28:11 45:10 46:16
reflect 51:4	relative 59:8 88:11	rephrase 36:15	130:2	47:4,19 52:4
reflected 90:17	101:12 109:10,21	report 16:12,23	required 39:11	53:17 54:9 65:5
refresh 45:5	169:17,18	reported 1:23	67:24 70:25 71:2	69:17 70:18 71:1
regard 26:8,10	released 74:4	11:14	75:13,18 94:23	71:11 76:21,22
31:24 35:19 44:13	relevant 75:12,16	reporter 2:5 5:21	110:11 122:10	84:8 87:4 96:23
66:1 73:21 74:12	164:24	169:5	151:22	97:25 104:16,17 110:9 111:3,10,15
107:11 128:14	relief 87:24 88:12	reports 17:1 96:4	requirement 54:23	
139:21	90:15,21 96:23	represent 109:12	66:9 67:17,19	111:24 113:13,15

				rage 19
114:4 117:25	109:5 113:7	rulings 106:24	26:4 30:17,19	97:22 140:25
118:1 119:21	118:22 120:1	rumor 127:20,22	37:13,13 39:9	153:20
127:6 133:7	125:3 129:7	run 5:19	50:3 57:23 81:3	segments 59:23
143:16 148:4,7	132:20 135:6		84:16,24 96:8	selected 33:3
153:9,11 165:12	138:8 142:5	S	101:8,21 102:2,3	self-determination
respondents 15:17	143:12,16 146:23	S 3:1 4:14	117:11 121:12	18:18 20:8
18:21 28:10 30:8	159:1	Sabina 124:10	128:17 129:20	self-help 155:17
33:20 45:13,25	Rights 92:21	safe 96:3	130:6,7 139:19	156:10,12,17
48:8,9 69:10,11	146:15 155:10,15	safeguard 13:18	152:15 153:24	send 41:21 96:20
78:20 92:23 97:10	155:18 157:2,11	39:2 71:3,14,18	scheduling 167:8	98:16
113:25 154:19	rise 138:3	73:19 74:9 77:24	school 153:22	sending 124:20
158:16 162:16,19	risk 13:18	78:7,12 79:14,16	167:11	139:4 141:12
respondent's 76:22	road 167:14	80:8 88:22 98:7	scope 15:14 31:12	sends 92:13
77:17 98:6	robe 25:20,21,24	108:1 111:2,9,12	38:11 45:20 47:14	sense 21:25 22:1
response 5:25	26:1,5,7 41:7,9,10	121:10 122:8	73:2 75:15 107:2	54:11 64:6 109:24
21:21 44:22 47:16	41:11,13,17,19,24	149:14 150:17	screen 89:18	sentence 18:17 19:9
132:3	42:6,14 43:12	151:21 158:22	142:21 166:25	19:19 20:24 22:3
responsibilities	44:5,9 85:10	160:16	screening 89:21	39:9,12 43:9 45:1
12:23	Robert 16:18	safeguards 26:21	se 46:11,11 109:14	45:7 46:20 47:17
responsible 13:7	Rodriguez 5:16	27:8,14 28:1,12	seal 169:22	51:9 84:16
14:18	12:11,19	28:18 38:4,8 71:1	seat 122:5	sentences 21:15
resulted 152:19	role 14:5,8,19 15:3	71:13,17,25 72:10	Seattle 1:2 9:4,13	50:3
results 91:17	15:9 50:4,25	72:16,18 75:7,12	90:6 92:2 128:25	separate 76:12
reticent 124:4	51:18 85:25 86:22	77:9 80:1,17,20	129:4,8 141:9	122:7,22,24
return 96:3 144:16	87:15 95:1,11	84:9 87:17 111:20	second 18:15,16	separately 123:14
reunification	101:21 106:24	138:14 152:20	44:25 45:7 58:13	September 128:5,8
139:22	108:20,21 111:25	153:4 155:4,6	60:18 82:12 119:7	serve 68:10,15 69:3
reunited 134:14	112:6,9 142:4,16	156:23 166:15	145:23	87:15 139:12
reverse 91:2	142:16 147:19	safety 130:17	Section 129:20	142:1,4
reversible 143:18	162:12	sat 157:1	sections 32:3	served 66:5 67:14
reversing 75:5	room 109:10	satisfy 73:1	Security 32:19	68:24 74:23
REVIEW 3:20	122:19 124:3	saves 132:6	see 18:3 30:21	service 66:22 67:2
reviewed 7:11	166:24	saw 44:3 139:21	33:25 39:12 53:13	67:7,18,20,23,25
135:14	roughly 11:6	saying 21:3 22:2	53:15 54:23 57:7	68:22 69:5 72:19
rewrite 20:20	rubber 154:7	23:25 48:7,7	58:3,14 64:6	72:21,23,25 73:1
right 11:17 16:10	rule 40:21 41:10	51:20 55:14 71:25	76:12,23 79:23	73:7,13,15,19
16:13,17,25 24:8	69:8 100:19	79:9 82:5 90:25	81:4 82:15 83:10	74:16,22,24,25
35:23 36:17 44:12	112:14,24 113:1,6	95:18,22 98:6	96:14 103:11	147:17
44:21 45:19 46:12	113:10,14,18,22	99:6,6,8 100:11 102:7,19 108:25	119:6 121:19	services 46:21
55:19 56:20 64:21	113:23 114:9,21	l '	124:12 131:3	170:1
66:16,17 67:11	114:25,25 131:7,8	111:5,17 118:5 119:8 134:3	139:18 144:13	serving 15:8 69:14
68:14 69:22 72:7	131:13 135:24	141:21,24 148:20	148:1,8,10,11	74:12
74:2 76:5,5 80:21	137:9	148:24 150:1,13	161:11	session 58:13 60:18
82:10 88:2 94:8	rules 5:19 73:1	164:17 165:21	seek 91:19 93:1	60:21
100:24 101:24	86:9,25 104:5	says 18:17 19:9	96:23 97:11	set 44:1 56:6 80:25
104:14 106:12	107:5 142:8	20:7 25:18,24,25	seeking 91:11	84:25 85:15,16
107:1 108:7,12	ruling 107:11	40.1 40.10,44,40	seen 7:9,14,15 96:4	132:25 138:17
		•	•	

				Page 19
145:10 153:3	163:18 165:12	100:17,21 149:17	125:9 139:19	spoke 9:6,9 11:1,10
154:2,7 169:21	silent 100:24	163:12	140:1 142:9,18	57:14,17 58:7
sets 34:11 41:25	Silvis 3:16 6:11	situations 89:19	149:21 150:4,5	61:5,7,12,13,14
76:4	7:25 19:16 21:9	99:21	153:17 157:4	61:17,18,22 64:10
severe 110:13	22:4,21 23:5 24:1	six-month 17:1,7	speakers 61:4 62:6	144:4 151:4
sexually 91:9	24:14 25:10 26:22	skill 162:4	speaking 29:8 31:2	spoken 117:19
sheet 170:5 171:9	27:5,18 28:5 29:4	slides 59:23 83:4	32:8 34:20 41:15	121:22
shelter 54:18	29:11,13,15,24	slow 161:2	60:10 128:2	Staff 4:19 136:22
154:24 157:10,12	30:12 31:6,9,13	slowly 161:10	143:25	stage 111:7 151:17
154.24 157.10,12	31:23 32:13,25	small 106:5 153:16	speaks 86:19 89:9	151:19 163:11
shelters 157:1,8	33:15 34:22 35:4	smaller 92:9	125:1	stages 59:21
158:2	35:13,24 38:11,24	soccer 153:22	special 15:3,15	stakeholder 102:14
shift 136:11	43:22 45:20 46:13	social 165:23	28:3 38:22 39:11	103:1
short 14:11 15:2	47:13,18 49:19	solemn 41:20	45:16 162:22	stakeholders 40:6
98:23 111:21	51:7 52:14 68:1.8	somebody 14:13	165:5	163:3
127:1 132:1	68:20 73:2,11	22:13 23:19 28:13	specific 7:22 13:24	stamped 136:23
136:14 141:23	75:14 78:1,14	37:18 39:4 40:9	23:24 24:24 25:8	stamped 156.25
160:16	80:22 83:9,17,19	43:1 49:17 74:5	28:14 29:22 30:4	stamps 133:18
shortened 126:4	106:3,13 107:2,9	79:6 87:20 90:4	30:6 32:3 33:8	standard 110:13
shorter 11:8	109:22 114:20,23	97:6 106:14,15	35:19 36:4 37:17	125:18,24
shortfalls 157:22	116:4 119:2,18	107:19 121:22	38:16 41:6 43:24	standards 125:13
show 41:22 55:20	120:6 123:2	124:5 127:21	45:6 46:3 52:4,21	standing 38:7
65:22 66:8,9,12	125:20 128:9	136:12 139:18	53:2 54:8 57:5	stands 19:20 120:4
102:23,24,24	137:12 138:5	140:1 142:9 148:5	85:19 86:4,4,25	start 50:9 78:16
102.23,24,24	149:25 160:1	148:11 149:9	87:2 102:17	153:20
104:10,17,20	162:2 163:1 164:9	151:18 156:5	117:13 118:11	started 11:10 14:22
105.0,12 100.14	164:18 165:8	161:17 165:15,21	141:16 153:17	52:24
126:20 130:18,19	167:21 168:2	165:24	157:10 158:1	starting 57:22
152:16 161:15	similar 84:12 121:2	somewhat 94:8	167:12	144:12
167:12	142:5	166:13	specifically 16:10	state 5:6 13:11
	Similarly 54:23	son 108:16	19:5 27:1 28:23	71:10,14,16 81:22
showing 90:2,9,12	simple 6:3 143:19	soon 17:10 129:19	46:14 56:21 60:8	120:9 132:8
91:23 130:14,16 140:23 141:23	single 28:9 92:3	sorry 29:17 45:2	74:19 75:1 85:14	133:24 136:12
shown 104:14	127:17 139:16	62:8 84:24 116:13	85:22 92:8 126:8	156:16 162:24
shows 41:20 56:15	140:17 141:24	125:6 153:8	131:18 136:7,12	163:22 164:2,13
146:16	147:10 149:2	155:14 164:21	158:10	165:3,7,15,17,17
shut 120:11	157:19,20 161:11	sort 106:11 143:11	specified 59:6	166:2,8,10
	sit 21:1,15 43:1,15	sounds 53:12	113:24	stated 97:17 135:19
sibling 87:21 side 98:6 126:19	57:8 85:11 111:13	south 3:11 158:3	specifies 101:10	142:25 169:9
164:3,13 165:23	sites 147:6	SOUTHERN 3:3	114:5	statement 7:4
sign 168:1	sitting 40:15 92:5	space 130:25	specify 30:3	25:22 72:13 75:2
sign 100:1 significant 52:9,11	107:20,23 108:16	166:20 167:2	speculate 117:16	120:10 122:3
	107.20,23 108.10	speak 7:18 8:3 11:8	160:21	123:13
significantly 11:18 11:23 107:16	110:3,5	35:3 60:22 62:5	spend 161:2	statements 22:17
	situation 38:14	74:8 86:7 89:23	spending 52:11	116:11 119:21
signing 169:14	90:24 96:25 97:15	95:9 97:3 98:19	135:18 167:13	122:25
Laioma 12/1/14				• • • · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
signs 130:16 SIJ 132:9 133:24	98:9,10,14 100:3	101:15 103:20	spite 26:3 121:5	States 1:1 3:15,19

		····		
99:25 124:22	strike 138:16	25:3,17 27:23	120:17 122:11,25	technique 162:5
Station 3:16	strongest 55:11	28:12,17 33:19	127:23 129:25	techniques 64:23
status 132:24	student 139:7	34:2 36:2,6 37:15	131:2 134:10,13	Ted 136:22
162:22 165:6	studies 70:9 96:3	38:17 40:8 48:10	138:13,13 140:3	telephone 159:6
statute 34:11,12,16	study 84:1 154:6	50:19 51:1,18	140:18 143:3	tell 7:19 46:5 65:25
37:8 103:4 104:2	subject 4:6,10,15	55:7 56:11,12,14	145:23 161:6,22	71:5,7 99:3
136:4	4:20 15:25 17:25	61:14 65:13 67:13	162:3 165:7	101:20 104:15,17
statutory 123:3	82:18 86:2 99:20	71:4 72:11 73:15	167:16	128:24 129:1
stay 40:16 99:24	116:15 120:5	79:5 84:7,10,12	taken 2:3 13:19	130:22 133:1
stenographically	122:23 123:9	93:2 97:7 108:1	27:1 88:15 118:8	135:10,12,21
169:10	submitted 82:9	112:21 121:7	163:9,11 169:8	147:10
step 26:8 42:11	Subscribed 170:23	127:8 129:17	takes 70:1,1 114:24	telling 80:15 90:3
72:3,15 90:21	171:15	132:22 140:17,24	119:21	116:17 118:7
92:19 98:13 99:13	subsequent 137:2	142:10 144:10	talk 5:20 21:2	135:7,8 143:7
110:7,22,24	substance 22:3	147:3 152:13	36:20 62:20 64:3	165:10
118:18 124:5	86:8 171:9	157:23 164:4	65:3 89:24 145:13	ten 131:6
126:7 127:23	substantive 90:13	suspect 56:12	146:15 153:24	terminate 71:9
148:12 161:18	substitute 51:6	sustain 115:9 116:2	159:2	151:15
167:3	substitutes 122:6	sweeping 22:17	talked 38:4 59:10	terminated 152:16
Stephen 129:8	sufficient 73:20	switch 112:13	59:11 61:11 66:25	terminating 71:22
steps 26:9,25 30:2,3	74:11,15 87:16	131:6	67:13 76:11	72:13 161:8
30:4,5 54:25	115:8	sworn 5:2 169:7	138:18 139:10	termination 152:16
56:14 78:11 85:8	sufficiently 72:23	170:23 171:15	145:5 147:18	terms 50:7 87:3
87:24 89:17 139:7	132:1	system 18:25 57:5	151:8 153:18	154:1
157:18	suggested 124:1	90:16 93:18 141:1	159:1 163:20	testified 5:3 12:21
stereotypical 49:10	suggesting 24:23	152:4	talking 15:25 18:3	testify 6:25 169:7
Steve 61:11 65:3	suggestion 50:12	T	42:25 43:14 50:15	testimony 12:11,14
156:21 159:17	suggestions 85:9		52:1 54:10,13	12:18,25 13:1
Steven 61:11	suitcases 130:15	T 4:19 169:1,1	63:25 64:1 68:3,3	28:7,8,9 75:8
stipulation 83:11	Suite 2:6 3:8 170:3	Tabador 9:12	72:4,6,8 73:23	165:4,9 169:12
167:25	Sukkar 129:15	table 21:15	74:17 75:3,22	Texas 131:22 132:8
stop 103:20,21,22	summary 58:21	tactical 106:17	76:1 85:4,6	141:16 158:4
104:7,8 116:18	supervise 13:10	tailoring 154:12	112:15 115:5	text 112:23
118:7,13,25	16:24 39:25	take 6:4,19,20	116:1 117:20	they'd 116:23
127:18,24 131:4	supervisor 16:13	14:17 21:14 22:2	138:4 152:2 154:3	thing 15:18 20:12
132:20 133:10	16:16,17,20,21	25:3,16,24 26:7	156:17 157:10	62:3 72:12 74:19
150:18,22 151:23	supervisory 39:19	27:2,10 28:19 30:2,5 40:7 41:11	158:7 163:19	77:16 85:4 99:6
159:24	39:23	42:14,16,19 48:10	165:16	163:14 166:14,17
stopped 11:23	support 17:18 49:7	54:25 56:10,14	talks 32:19	166:22 167:8
136:14 152:9	120:23	67:24 76:21 78:11	tap 161:11	things 8:20 12:23
stopping 80:3	supporting 82:7	80:18 85:8 87:3	tapes 103:10	19:9 20:6 21:7
117:9 130:4 160:18	supports 43:10	87:24 89:11,17	tasks 86:16 87:10	41:20,23 43:4,6
	supposed 25:25	90:21 96:16	111:23 153:17	49:11 54:11 64:13
strange 91:17 Street 2:6 3:4,8,17	supposition 78:16 sure 5:17,19 7:15	100:19 101:8	taught 24:16 69:24	65:12 77:21 78:3
170:2	7:25 10:9,23 19:2	113:25 114:3	70:8	84:12,21 86:19
stricter 114:8,21	19:9,23 20:14	115:23 114:3	teach 69:3 71:10	90:15 93:4 94:10
5011CC 114.0,21	17.7,43 40.14		153:3	101:17 110:17,18

				Tage 17
110:19,21 111:24	142:14 144:15	title 13:3,4 14:24	51:8 53:3 63:2,2	86:4,5,8 91:4
116:14 122:1	145:12 146:6,10	15:10 24:22 34:6	73:3 76:4 78:15	94:25 95:13,13,14
153:14 154:9,18	146:17 147:4,7	61:8 62:15	114:20 131:18	106:9 113:7
154:19 156:14	149:5 150:15	today 6:5,8,25 7:3	total 61:10	119:10 121:7,14
157:18 158:20	151:6 153:2,13	20:15,21,23 22:3	totality 23:17 88:16	126:23 133:9,22
160:8 164:7	155:21 156:4,4,21	22:7 41:1 50:21	totally 17:13	135:20 136:7
166:23,23 167:15	156:24 157:14	51:3 61:1 133:14	Tough 84:13	137:17,19 151:1
think 8:10 9:18	158:21 161:7,20	135:14 138:15	toy 43:3,15	162:5,15
13:16,24,25 15:10	161:24 164:9	149:7 152:21	toys 85:11	trainings 53:3
19:7,20 20:12,18	165:2 167:23	today's 7:6	track 39:20 40:3,7	56:19,24,25 76:12
21:3,5,21 22:7,11	thinking 81:17	told 89:20 90:1	40:14 132:6 152:4	transcription 171:6
22:17,19 23:6,9,9	third 133:25	103:5 127:16	152:10	transferred 55:25
23:11 24:3,22	Thomas 129:11	141:5,19 148:17	tracked 58:22,23	56:1,4
25:2 26:6 34:9	thought 10:9,10	149:20 151:3	58:25 59:9 93:20	TRANSPERFECT
35:21 37:4 38:1	40:9 43:7,18 44:4	159:20 160:22,24	tracking 144:10	170:1
41:7 42:10,25	44:9 60:15 88:14	161:4,20	152:1	transport 105:25
43:5,8,9 44:15	100:20 143:9	tone 111:22	traditionally 95:6	transportation
47:19 48:18,20	threat 103:15	tool 39:4 78:5	trafficked 62:24	106:17
50:12,18,19,21	threaten 102:16	147:10 150:12	trafficking 63:2	Travieso 9:12
51:10,17 54:12,18	threatened 102:25	toolbox 63:24	130:13	61:14 64:10
56:11,13 59:19	three 13:9 14:7	146:18 147:11,21	train 36:9,10,15	treat 137:10
60:22 64:10,23	63:4 69:25 70:7	149:7,8,9,12	45:3 48:21,22	treated 56:14
69:10 70:4,12	79:1 91:21 93:11	150:8 162:6	49:22 67:17,22	treatment 18:22
72:13 73:13,17	136:7 140:9 145:6	165:14	68:13,15 69:8	trial 7:3 118:21
74:6,24 75:10,16	145:11 161:4	toolboxes 151:4	70:15,18 73:6	tried 84:3
75:19,24,25 76:14	Thursday 2:7	tools 64:25 112:7	78:10 79:12,25	trouble 126:22,22
76:18,19,20 77:5	58:12	150:9,19,20 151:5	86:2 113:5 123:11	126:23 145:20
77:12 78:4 84:21	tie 72:19	151:8 157:22	123:14,15 164:6	trudge 161:22
85:6,19 87:19	tied 32:20	161:14 166:1	166:18,19,19	true 13:22 18:20
88:16 89:23 94:12	ties 105:5 126:9	top 7:21 39:8 81:2	trained 49:24 53:16	19:5,14 22:6
97:2,5,20,21,23	time 5:21 6:12,12	84:16	56:17 57:5 64:23	24:13 25:5,6 31:9
100:4,24 101:7,9	12:24 14:11,21	topic 8:13 21:10	74:20 80:4,11	47:25 48:1,5
101:10,23 102:2,3	15:19 20:4 29:10	24:2 25:11 26:23	94:24 121:14	69:18 70:22 80:18
103:3 105:7,8,13	52:12,15 58:22	29:5,9,11,12,13	122:13 161:4	109:17 148:25
105:20 110:1	70:1 79:3 104:19	31:6 38:12 47:13	training 4:11,12	153:10 160:7
111:18 113:10,23	128:7 132:10	61:25 62:2 68:9	13:9 14:19 15:7	169:12
114:1,3,4,24,25	135:19 140:21	75:14 83:12,13	15:19,22,25 16:1	truth 169:7
117:12,22 118:8,9	141:2,2,10 145:25	84:2 85:24 100:25	16:3 26:10 36:18	try 36:24 40:16
118:14,16 119:4	161:2,7,23 162:4	106:3 107:9	37:5 40:17 45:3	46:7 78:5 79:18
120:8 121:7,16	163:9 167:13	112:14 114:23	48:18 51:24,25	97:4 112:1,8
122:7 124:2 126:2	169:8	119:2 123:2	52:5,19,21 53:2	117:15 153:25
127:8,8 128:11,12	timeframe 128:6	125:20 131:6	57:4,9,25 58:3,7,9	156:11,15 167:16
128:13 129:17	131:25	137:12 138:5	58:20 64:20 66:1	trying 50:20 56:3
131:1 134:6	times 5:11 20:17	149:25 152:22	67:19 68:1,3,21	84:11 108:4,17,23
135:13 136:8,13	77:20 134:23	160:1 162:2 165:8	69:2 73:16 74:15	142:21 149:11
137:18,20 139:10	140:24 153:20	topics 7:10,19 8:4,6	75:1 76:3,4,13	157:24 163:17
139:16 141:13,15	164:1 166:25	10:14 16:4 36:12	78:4 81:3,14 83:6	164:2
l			l	I

	······································			
turn 49:15	19:7 26:17 50:7	133:18,23 134:10	135:19 136:3	104:25
turning 95:17	1	55:13 68:7 69:17 134:11 136:9,25		warning 133:13
TVPAR 130:12	69:22 70:4,24	137:14,17 138:6	violate 135:9,11 violates 135:24	Washington 1:1,14
TVPRA 94:22 95:6	80:11 94:15 95:1	138:13 144:21	violating 42:17	2:7 3:8,17
tweak 154:18	95:11 102:6	145:22 146:1,2,8	violating 42.17	wasn't 11:11 34:3
two 32:17 41:20	108:23,25 128:19	USCRI 94:12	Virginia 3:21	44:8 103:12 127:6
50:3,7 64:2 73:12	132:12	use 31:25 32:1,1,4	virtually 141:6	waste 29:10
75:23,25 106:5	understanding	36:22 39:4,20	visa 91:17	watched 157:7
113:19 114:17	10:2 12:12 22:8	40:4 43:21 45:8	voluntary 91:11,15	watching 154:12
121:17 134:7	32:21 50:22 68:17	45:22 51:5 65:1	99:17,18,23 100:8	157:3
145:8	72:22 102:10	65:11 76:6,10	vulnerable 13:13	waving 122:4
type 57:10 126:10	127:14 138:10	80:8 83:22,24	13:15,16,21 14:9	way 18:11,25 20:21
types 20:5 75:23	141:17 143:25	126:10 154:1	15:6 16:6 17:8	22:18 59:12 69:13
122:1	understood 10:22	162:4 166:24	24:12 40:2 77:11	70:9 71:20 77:21
typical 98:13	143:10	useful 42:21	112:1 150:10	80:4 89:9 94:14
	undertake 40:18	uses 33:6 34:10		101:24 115:3
U	undocumented	101:10	W	118:9 120:14
U 91:17	130:20	usually 165:23	wait 144:22	124:5 126:18,23
UAC 141:20	unfair 119:22	utilize 43:13 135:5	waiting 12:1	127:17 139:1
143:24	unfortunately		waive 87:24 99:16	144:1 149:6
UC 4:16 53.21,23	60:17 83:5,5	NATI VARIABLE AND DESIGNATION OF THE PARTY O	99:22 100:6,10	150:25 152:3,8
55:6,8 133:19,20	UNION 3:3	v 1:6 84:15 170:6	102:19,19 104:22	153:17 159:23
ultimately 97:5	unique 97:22	variables 84:14	waived 102:21	169:19
139:23 151:6	109:23	variance 82:2	105:6 145:21	ways 97:9,11
um-hum 10:2 11:5	United 1:1 3:15,19	variant 118:20	146:9 169:15	151:16 154:18
52:3 65:18 79:11	99:24 124:22	varied 11:2	waiver 100:7	167:16
94:18 129:24	universal 148:25	varies 22:13 145:14	waiving 88:11	wear 26:1,4 41:10
unable 165:5	universe 54:3	variety 141:25	90:14 104:10	wearing 26:7 41:9
unaccompanied	unlawful 104:9	various 11:16 52:2	want 26:17 29:5	41:24 100:14
4:8,21 24:21,25	unpublished 134:7	81:22 124:1	37:7 44:12,19,23	weighed 39:17
30:19 32:19 34:7	unrelated 17:14	vary 28:20 31:25	45:24 48:3 65:6	Weil 1:12 2:2 4:2,9
37:3,10,19,22	unrepresented	101:11 131:19	68:2 72:17 78:18	5:1,8 128:8 169:6
53:21,23 55:6	46:8 49:1 86:1,15	142:15 144:1	80:10,11,11,14	170:7 171:4,12
113:13 127:2	87:10 108:6	146:10	85:24 86:11 90:23	welcome 112:21
131:10 133:8,16	113:15 114:19	venue 103:7	93:4 96:8,9,18	went 17:9,13 71:23
134:8,16 137:6	115:6 140:14	venues 157:9	97:6,11 99:4,5,12	71:23 72:5 81:22
150:1	145:24 148:21	verbal 5:24 59:10	99:24 125:11	126:7 127:3
uncle 87:20 uncles 130:20	150:2 161:25	verifying 66:4,5	129:22 130:19	weren't 16:9
uncomfortable	unusual 61:19	version 137:15,16 137:18	132:23 138:17	West 3:4
	update 51:3 103:9	versus 122:9	141:7 143:6	WESTERN 1:1
	119:24 updates 4:20		145:23 166:23,25	we'll 27:14 68:8
162:17	cooperative 139:22		wanted 10:5,23 63:23 72:19 100:6	136:19
apper 50.0		video 95:13 155:16 view 13:22 26:17	126:5 128:3,19	we're 21:9 25:10
Underneath 124:15	undergo 16:1 USCCB 94:12		wants 90:20,25	26:10 28:19 29:4
understand 5:22	USCIS 12:1 131:11	26:18 31:3 32:6 32:11 51:4 109:16	98:11,12,14,16	29:14 31:6 40:14
6:9 7:2,17 8:16	131:16,16,25 132:17,21 133:11	114:16 116:12	99:10,12,22 100:5	40:25 41:22 42:15
3.5 / 12,1 / 0,10	134.17,41 133.11	- 1,10 110,12	77.10,12,22 100.J	48:9,18 49:2

			·····	1490 170
50:20 54:10,12	162:15,18 163:25	000258 4:11	2:37 83:8	40s 33:24
75:22 76:1 85:20	works 144:1 151:16	000269 4:13	200 2:6 3:8	45 11:7
98:10 115:5 117:9	world 117:17	07-01 4:7 18:2	20005 2:7 3:8	45th 170:2
127:11,23 129:19	worried 130:13	64:13,16,21,22	2002 32:19	
134:2,3,22 139:4	wouldn't 20:25	65:12 76:19 78:3	20044-7611 3:17	5
144:12 149:11,11	95:10 100:18	83:21	2007 17:25 42:8	5 4:3
156:11 162:6,14	113:21 123:11,14	05,21	2009 14:23 15:1	5/22/07 4:5
166:17 167:23	123:15,15,25	11	52:25	5/28/13 4:19
we've 8:22 23:11	152:17	1 7:6 8:4 125:6	2013 15:2,8,15 16:9	50s 33:24
52:9 80:4 95:12	write 21:13 25:23	171:5	136:23	5107 3:21
107:6,7 116:14	114:11	10 128:5	2014 128:5,8	58 4:9
118:8 128:11	writing 51:3	10017 170:3	2015 1:13 2:8 4:12	- 1/4/4/14 N = 1/4/
151:2 158:25	written 20:13,15,16	11 4:5 8:6 17:19,22	15:2,8,15 52:18	6
WHEREOF	20:21,21 21:20	85:24	52:19,22 56:24	6 7:9 8:4 84:15
169:21	76:20 115:3	11:00 60:19	57:3 64:21 81:3	601 3:17
whisk 91:11	wrong 22:1 89:4	12 4:9 57:21 58:5	81:13 124:11	610 3:11
widespread 106:1	147:8	12:39 2:8	128:6 169:23	7
106:12	W-E-I-L 5:8	124 4:14	170:6,24 171:16	
widest 112:7		1240.10 122:23	202.307.4693 3:18	78:11,13
WILLIAM 3:16	X	1240.10(c) 112:15	202.507.7500 3:9	703.605.1293 3:22
William.Silvis@	X 4:1	13 4:12 8:8 81:2,6	21 32:1 34:14	7611 3:16
3:18	XYZ 123:25	147:7	212.400.8845 170:4	8
willing 134:10		1313 3:4	213.385.2977 3:12	8 8:12,13
138:13 161:18	Y	1331 2:6 3:8	213.977.5211 3:5	8th 3:4
witness 7:11 31:11	Yates 9:11	136 4:19	216 170:2	
32:7 48:13,14	yeah 12:9 14:22	14 4:14 31:25 34:15	22 17:25	81 4:12
52:15 83:14	19:18 20:10 64:22	124:7,9 147:7	22041 3:21	9
167:20 169:6,13	65:21 83:18 84:21	15 1:13 2:7 4:19	23 137:18	9 8:6
169:16,21 170:7	120:21 127:8	16:9 136:17,19	23-24 4:10 57:24	9th 115:22
Witnesses 82:15	129:3 131:9 155:9	154:10 170:6	24 124:11	9:00 62:9
Woltjen 61:5	155:12,20 156:24	15047 1:25	28 136:23	90 90:8
wonder 14:6	157:12	16 8:8	29th 169:22	90005 3:12
word 34:10,15	year 14:12,17	16th 152:22		90017 3:5
35:16 51:5 53:5	69:25,25 70:7,11	167 171:5	3	903 170:3
63:15 88:3 101:10	79:2,2 106:5	17 4:5	3 30:17	95 90:3
words 50:20 71:8	161:4,5,25	18 30:21,24 31:4,18	3/24/15 4:14	99 90:4
115:13 147:5	years 14:10 32:21	31:22 32:1,9,14	30 167:25)
work 15:14 17:2,8	154:10 162:23	32:21 33:3 34:11	30(b)(6) 7:7 31:7	
63:17 79:4,7,18	York 127:6 170:3,3	37:13 113:16,20	32:7 48:13,14	
103:25 109:8	young 35:18,22	114:18	83:13	
120:14 149:12	36:3 37:11 69:19			
155:9 156:15,16	70:17 94:5,11	<u> </u>	4	
157:7	95:3,14 160:15	2 125:6	4 39:8	
worked 41:4	youth 112:11	2:14-ev-01026-T	4/22/15 4:9	
163:10	Λ	1:4	4:06 143:4	
working 16:9 17:12	0	2:28 83:8	4:17 143:4	
156:11,12 157:21	000232 4:17	2:30 60:1	4:5 1 168:3	
100,11,12 107,21				
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		Page 171
	1	
	2	ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF DEPONENT
	3	
	4	I, HONORABLE JACK H. WEIL, do here certify
	5	that I have read the foregoing pages 1 to 167 and
	6	that the same is a correct transcription of the
	7	answers given by me to the questions herein propounded,
	8	except for the corrections or changes in form or
	9	substance, if any, noted in the attached errata sheet.
	10	
	11	11-30-15 Jack 31 2/0'a
	12	DATE Jack N. Weil
	13	
	14	
	15	Subscribed and sworn to me this
	16	30 day of November, 2015.
	17	
	18	Daniels Barapellor
	19	Notary Public
	20	DANICIA KADADETKOV
	21	DANIELA KARAPETKOV NOTARY PUBLIC REGISTRATION # 7546879
	22	COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA MY COMMISSION EXPIRES JANUARY 31, 2017
	23	
	24	
	25	
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1	Case	2:14-ANSPER	GETST DEFORETTION SERVICES 17/16 Page 198 of 201
2		21	6 East 45th Street
3 4		New	Suite 903 York, New York 10017 212.400.8845
5	ERRATA	SHEET	
6	CASE: 15, 20		".M., et al., v LYNCH, et al. DATE: October
7	WITNES	S: JACK	H. WEIL, ASSISTANT CHIEF IMMIGRATION JUDGE
8	Page	Line	Change and reason for change:
9	7	18	delete "the"
10	11	16	"various" should be "variations"
11	13	18	"that if" should be "that if a"
12	14	22	"started approximately" should be "started in approximately"
13	15	12	"Assistant" should be "the"
14	17	10	"office of" should be "office of the"
15	17	24	delete "assistant"
16	20	4	"obviously are" should be "obviously they are"
17	20	17	delete "as"
18	21	20	"well" should be "were"

19	23	14	delete "at"
			derece de
0.0			
20	25	21	delete "A"
21	25	22	capitalize "T"
22	26	4	"issue policy" should be "issue a policy"
			and policy bloads be abbae a policy
23	26	15	"respondent to" should be "respondent in"
	\		
24	27	9-10	delete "that we can take"
25	28	10	"respondents" should be "respondent"
26	30	3	"that" should be "to"
		4	
27	38	1	delete "the"
28	41	2	"category" should be "concern"
29	43	5	"does it" should be "does is it"
30	45	12	"incur" should be "encourage"
31	45	23 "a c	child is represented" should be "a child
			respondent is not represented"
32	50	17-18	"experience what a personal representative,"
			should be "experience. What is a personal representative?"
33	51	1	delete "which"

34	69	2	"be concerned" should be "concern"
35	81	18	delete "the"
36	82	22	"ask" should be "answer"
37	82	24	"his presentation" should be "his prior presentation"
38	83	4	"ask" should be "asked"
39	90	3-4	"95 to 99" should be "95 to 99 percent of the time"
40	91	15	"make the" should be "make sure the"
41	91	20	"for" should be "or a"
42	91	23	"Friend" should be "Friends"
43	96	14	"interest consistent" should be "interest is consistent"
44	97	10	"though" should be "thought"
45	97	24	"I-599" should be "I-589"
46	98	7	"for safeguard" should be "for a safeguard"
47	105	17-18	"for explaining the child failure" should be "explaining the child's failure"

48	109	16	"department" should be "Department's"
49	115	2	"We got" should be "We have got"
50	118	16	"on" should be "is"
51	119	10	"is something" should be "is this something"
52	122	6	"substitutes" should be "constitutes"
53	122	9	"its" should be "a"
54	127	17	"this" should be "these"
	100		
55	129	13	"D.E." should be "Dee"
56	129	15	"Lisa" should be "Elisa"
57	133	15	"problem in it is that" should be "problem is
			that"
58	134	23	Ntimody about d be Ntime
20	T34	43	"times" should be "time"
59	167	12	"off" should be "of"

Subscribed and sworn to me this 30th day of November, 2015.

Jack H. Weil

Jack n. Weil

DANIELA KARAPETKOV
NOTARY PUBLIC
REGISTRATION # 7546879
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES
JANUARY 31, 2017