



The Attorney General

Washington, D.C.

January 9, 2006

MEMORANDUM TO IMMIGRATION JUDGES

FROM: THE ATTORNEY GENERAL *arg*

I have watched with concern the reports of immigration judges who fail to treat aliens appearing before them with appropriate respect and consideration and who fail to produce the quality of work that I expect from employees of the Department of Justice. While I remain convinced that most immigration judges ably and professionally discharge their difficult duties, I believe there are some whose conduct can aptly be described as intemperate or even abusive and whose work must improve.

To better assess the scope and nature of the problem, I have asked the Deputy Attorney General and the Associate Attorney General to develop a comprehensive review of the immigration courts. I have requested that the review include the quality of work as well as the manner in which it is performed and encompass both the Immigration Court and the Board of Immigration Appeals. Once this assessment is complete, I will ask for recommendations for improvement. We will all work together to solve this problem.

In the meantime, I urge you always to bear in mind the significance of your cases and the lives they affect. To the aliens who stand before you, you are the face of American justice. Not all will be entitled to the relief they seek. But I insist that each be treated with courtesy and respect. Anything less would demean the office that you hold and the Department in which you serve.