



September 12, 2000

MEMORANDUM

TO: OCIJ Management Staff
All Court Administrators
All Liaison Judges

FROM: Office of the Chief Immigration Judge

SUBJECT: Operating Policies and Procedures Memorandum No. 00-3:
Delegation of Signature Authority

This Operating Policies and Procedures Memorandum (OPPM) cancels OPPM 98-1, dated May 28, 1998.

Effective immediately, pursuant to the delegations of signature authority given to me by Kevin D. Rooney, Director, the incumbents of the following positions are delegated signature authority as indicated:

- A. Deputy Chief Immigration Judges. Under the direction of the Chief Immigration Judge, the Deputy Chief Immigration Judges are delegated the following signature authority:
1. Authority to grant/disapprove leave requests for subordinates.
 2. Authority to grant travel authorization for domestic travel to subordinates, including administrative increases and travel under actual subsistence conditions, and to approve resulting travel vouchers.
 3. Authority to approve advance of travel funds to subordinates.

4. Authority to certify the accuracy of Time and Attendance Reports for subordinates.
5. Authority to approve compensatory time for non-attorney subordinates.
6. Authority to sign correspondence relating to the hiring procedures for filling vacancies at the Immigration Judge level.
7. Authority to approve all personnel actions relating to non-attorney subordinates (with the exception of the selection of the Executive Officer position) at the grade level of GS-15 and below, excluding awards. As the immediate supervisor, in consultation with the Labor and Employee Relations Branch, of the Office of General Counsel, the authority to issue Letters of Reprimand and propose suspensions of any length and to propose removal of a subordinate. As a second level supervisor, in consultation with the Labor and Employee Relations Branch, of the Office of General Counsel, the authority to be the deciding official for proposed suspensions of any length and proposed removals.
8. Authority to propose disciplinary action up to and including a 14-day suspension for all attorney and Immigration Judge subordinates, after consultation with the Labor and Employee Relations Branch, of the Office of General Counsel.
9. Authority to review results of background investigations of subordinates and applicants for subordinate positions, upon the request of the Office of Security, and recommend the retention or employment of an individual based on a review of the investigation results.
10. Authority to initiate all requests for procurement of supplies, furniture, and equipment for the Office of the Chief Immigration Judge.

11. Authority to sign correspondence of a purely routine or informational nature between counterparts in the Government and the private sector which is necessary to the performance of stated duties.
- B. Assistant Chief Immigration Judges. Under the direction of the Chief Immigration Judge, the Assistant Chief Immigration Judges are delegated the following signature authority:
1. Authority to grant/disapprove leave requests for subordinates.
 2. Authority to grant travel authorization for domestic travel to subordinates, and to approve resulting travel vouchers.
 3. Authority to approve advance of travel funds to subordinates.
 4. Authority to certify the accuracy of Time and Attendance Reports for subordinates.
 5. Authority to approve compensatory time for non-attorney subordinates.
 6. Authority to sign correspondence relating to the hiring procedures for filling vacancies at the Immigration Judge level.
 7. Authority to approve all personnel actions relating to non-attorney subordinates at the grade level of GS-15 and below, excluding awards. As the immediate supervisor, in consultation with the Labor and Employee Relations Branch, Office of General Counsel, the authority to issue Letters of Reprimand and propose suspensions of any length and to propose removal of a subordinate. As a second level supervisor, in consultation with the Labor and Employee Relations Branch, Office of General Counsel, the authority to be the deciding official for proposed suspensions of any length and proposed removals.

8. Authority to propose disciplinary action up to and including a 14-day suspension for all attorney and Immigration Judge subordinates, after consultation with the Labor and Employee Relations Branch, of the Office of General Counsel.
9. Authority to review results of background investigations of subordinates and applicants for subordinate positions, upon the request of the Office of Security, and recommend the retention or employment of an individual based on your review of the investigation results.
10. Authority to sign correspondence of a purely routine or informational nature between counterparts in the Government and the private sector which is necessary to the performance of stated duties.

C. Court Administrators. Under the direction of the Chief Immigration Judge and Assistant Chief Immigration Judge, Court Administrators are delegated the following signature authority:

1. Authority to grant/disapprove leave requests for all subordinates, after ensuring proper coverage in the office, with the exception of administrative leave.
2. Authority to grant travel authorization for domestic travel to subordinates, and to approve resulting travel vouchers.
3. Authority to approve advance of travel funds to subordinates.
4. Authority to certify the accuracy of Time and Attendance Reports for all employees.
5. Authority to approve all personnel actions relating to non-attorney subordinates at the grade level of GS-13 and below, excluding awards. As the immediate

supervisor, the authority to issue Letters of Reprimand and propose suspensions of 14 days or less. As a second level supervisor, the authority to be the deciding official for proposed suspensions of 14 days or less; or be the proposing official for suspensions of more than 14 days; and to propose removal of a subordinate (all reprimands, suspensions and removals must first be discussed with the ACIJ and the Labor and Employee Relations Branch, Office of General Counsel).

6. Court Administrators in the grade of GS-15 are delegated signature authority for all personnel actions, excluding awards and adverse actions, relating to subordinates at the grade level of GS-14 and below, provided their supervising ACIJ has been consulted in advance of the proposed action.
7. Authority to redelegate any or all of the above listed authorities to the Deputy Court Administrator in courts that have such a designated position.

D. Supervisory Interpreters. Under the direction of the Court Administrator, the Assistant Chief Immigration Judge, and the Chief Immigration Judge, Supervisory Interpreters are delegated the following signature authority:

1. Authority to grant/disapprove leave requests for all subordinates, after ensuring proper coverage in the office, with the exception of administrative leave and leave without pay.
2. Authority to approve all personnel actions relating to subordinates at the grade level of GS-12 and below, excluding awards. Authority is also given to issue Letters of Reprimand and propose suspensions of 14 days or less. (All reprimands and suspensions must first be discussed with the Court Administrator, or his/her designee, the ACIJ, and the Labor and Employee Relations Branch, Office of General Counsel).

E. Supervisory Legal Technicians. Under the direction of the Court Administrator, the Assistant Chief Immigration Judge, and the Chief Immigration Judge, Supervisory Legal Technicians are delegated the following signature authority:

1. Authority to grant/disapprove leave requests for all subordinates, after ensuring proper coverage in the office, with the exception of administrative leave and leave without pay.
2. Authority to approve all personnel actions relating to subordinates at the grade level of GS-7 and below, excluding awards. Authority is also given to issue Letters of Reprimand and propose suspensions of 14 days or less. (All reprimands and suspensions must first be discussed with the Court Administrator, or his/her designee, the ACIJ, and the Labor and Employee Relations Branch, Office of General Counsel).

F. Chief Clerk of the Immigration Court. Under the direction of the Deputy Chief Immigration Judge and the Chief Immigration Judge, the Chief Clerk of the Immigration Court is delegated the following signature authority:

1. Authority to grant/disapprove leave requests for all subordinates, after ensuring proper coverage in the office, with the exception of administrative leave and leave without pay.
2. Authority to approve all personnel actions relating to subordinates at the grade level of GS-14 and below, excluding awards. Authority is also given to issue Letters of Reprimand and propose suspensions of 14 days or less. (All reprimands and suspensions must first be discussed with the Deputy Chief Immigration Judge and the Labor and Employee Relations Branch, Office of General Counsel).

3. Authority to grant travel authorization for domestic travel to subordinates, and to approve resulting travel vouchers.

G. Deputy Chief Clerk of the Immigration Court. Under the direction of the Chief Clerk of the Immigration Court, Deputy Chief Immigration Judge, and the Chief Immigration Judge, the Deputy Chief Clerk of the Immigration Court is delegated the following signature authority:

1. Authority to grant/disapprove leave requests for all subordinates, after ensuring proper coverage in the office, with the exception of administrative leave and leave without pay.
2. Authority to approve all personnel actions relating to subordinates at the grade level of GS-13 and below, excluding awards. Authority is also given to issue Letters of Reprimand and propose suspensions of 14 days or less. (All reprimands and suspensions must first be discussed with the Deputy Chief Immigration Judge, the Chief Clerk of the Immigration Court, and the Labor and Employee Relations Branch, Office of General Counsel.)

H. Chief, Language Services Unit. Under the direction of the Deputy Chief Immigration Judge and the Chief Immigration Judge, the Chief of the Language Services Unit is delegated the following signature authority:

1. Authority to grant/disapprove leave requests for all subordinates, after ensuring proper coverage in the office, with the exception of administrative leave and leave without pay.
2. Authority to approve all personnel actions relating to subordinates at the grade level of GS-13 and below, excluding awards. Authority is also given to issue Letters of Reprimand and propose suspensions of 14 days or less. (All reprimands and suspensions must first be discussed with the Deputy Chief Immigration Judge, and

the Labor and Employee Relations Branch, Office of General Counsel.)

- I. Executive Officer. Under the direction of the Deputy Chief Immigration Judge and the Chief Immigration Judge, the Executive Officer is delegated the following signature authority:
1. Authority to grant/disapprove leave requests for all subordinates, after ensuring proper coverage in the office, with the exception of administrative leave and leave without pay.
 2. Authority to approve all personnel actions relating to subordinates at the grade level of GS-14 and below, excluding awards. Authority is also given to issue Letters of Reprimand and propose suspensions of 14 days or less. (All reprimands and suspensions must first be discussed with the Deputy Chief Immigration Judge, and the Labor and Employee Relations Branch, Office of General Counsel.)
 3. Authority to initiate all requests for procurement of supplies, furniture, and equipment for the Office of the Chief Immigration Judge, after consultation with the Deputy Chief Immigration Judge and the Chief Immigration Judge.
- J. Administrative Services Specialist. Under the direction of the Executive Officer, the Deputy Chief Immigration Judge, and the Chief Immigration Judge, the Administrative Services Specialist is delegated the following signature authority:
1. Authority to grant/disapprove leave requests for all subordinates, after ensuring proper coverage in the office, with the exception of administrative leave and leave without pay.
 2. Authority to approve all personnel actions relating to subordinates at the grade level of GS-8 and below, excluding awards. Authority is also given to issue Letters of Reprimand and propose suspensions of 14 days or less. (All reprimands and suspensions must first be

discussed with the Executive Officer, Deputy Chief Immigration Judge, and the Labor and Employee Relations Branch, Office of General Counsel.)

Michael J. Creppy
Chief Immigration Judge

cc: Kevin D. Rooney
Larry D'Elia
Chuck-Adkins-Blanch
Samantha Matus
All Immigration Judges
All Immigration Court Support Staff
All OCIJ Support Staff