UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON AT SEATTLE

J.E.F.M. a minor, by and through his Next Friend, Bob Ekblad; et al.,

Case No. 2:14-cv-01026-TSZ

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

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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	Oral deposition of HONORABLE JACK H. WEIL, called by the Plaintiffs for examination, taken by and before Ann Medis, Registered Professional Reporter and Notary Public, held at the American Immigration Council, 1331 G Street, NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20005, on Thursday, October 15, 2015, commencing at 12:39 p.m.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13	* IN D E X * HONORABLE JACK H. WEIL PAGE EXAMINATION BY MR. ARULANANTHAM 5 * INDEX OF EXHIBITS * NO. DESCRIPTION PAGE Exhibit 11 Memorandum, 5/22/07, from D. Neal 17 to All Immigration Judges, et al., subject: Operating Policies and Procedures Memorandum 07-01: Guidelines for Immigration Court Cases Involving Unaccompanied Alien Children Exhibit 12 Email, 4/22/15, from J. Weil to 58 J. Osuna, et al., subject: Final Agenda for April 23-24 Juvenile Docket Training (Corrected) EOIR000254 - 000258 Exhibit 13 2015 EOIR Legal Training Program-81 Course Descriptions
14 15 16 17 18		14 15 16 17	EOIR000259 - 000269 Exhibit 14 Email, 3/24/15, from S. Boone- Fisher to All of Judges, subject: Docketing Practices Related to UC and AWC/ATD Cases in Light of New Priorities (On Behalf of CIJ O'Leary) EOIR000229 - 000232
19 20 21 22 23 24 25		18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	Exhibit 15 Memorandum, 5/28/13, from T. Kim 136 to All Asylum Office Staff, subject: Updates Procedures for Determination of Initial Jurisdiction over Asylum Applications Filed by Unaccompanied Alien Children
23	Page 3	23	Page 5
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	A P P E A R A N C E S On behalf of Plaintiffs-Petitioners AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BY: AHILAN ARULANANTHAM, ESQUIRE 1313 West 8th Street Los Angeles, California 90017 213.977.5211 aarulanantham@aclusocal.org AMERICAN IMMIGRATION COUNCIL BY: KRISTIN MACLEOD-BALL, ESQUIRE 1331 G Street NW, Suite 200 Washington, DC 20005 202.507.7500 kmacleod-ball@immcouncil.org PUBLIC COUNSEL BY: KRISTEN JACKSON, ESQUIRE 610 South Ardmore Avenue Los Angeles, California 90005 213.385.2977 kjackson@publiccounsel.org On behalf of Defendants-Respondents UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	HONORABLE JACK H. WEIL, having been first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows: EXAMINATION BY MR. ARULANANTHAM: Q. Will you state your full name for the record. A. Jack H. Weil, W-E-I-L. Q. You've been deposed before; correct? A. Yes. Q. How many times? A. One that I recall. Q. What was that in? A. I don't have an independent recollection, but as mentioned by counsel, it may
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE BY: WILLIAM C. SILVIS, ESQUIRE Ben Franklin Station, P.O. Box 7611 601 D Street, NW Washington, DC 20044-7611 202.307.4693 William.Silvis@usdog.gov UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR IMMIGRATION REVIEW BY: HELAINE PERLMAN, ESQUIRE 5107 Leesburg Pike Falls Church, Virginia 22041 703.605.1293 Helaine.Perlman@usdoj.gov	16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	have been the Rodriguez litigation, but I'm not sure. Q. Well, since it's been a while, I'll just run through some rules with you which I'm sure you're familiar with. Let's not talk at the same time because the reporter is taking notes. Do you understand that? A. Yes. Q. And could you give a verbal, audible response for the same reason. I'm entitled to

Page 6 Page 8 1 1 your estimates. If I ask you for something you (There was a discussion off the record.) 2 2 don't know with complete certainty, you don't have BY MR. ARULANANTHAM: 3 3 to guess. I'll give you a simple example just to Q. So are you authorized to speak for the 4 4 be clear. If I ask you how long did it take you Department of Justice on topics 1 through 6? 5 to get here today, even though you may not know 5 A. Yes. 6 6 the exact minutes, you still should give me an Q. And topics 9 through 11? 7 answer. If I ask you how long I took to get here 7 A. Yes. 8 8 Q. And 13 through 16? today, that's obviously just a guess. 9 Do you understand that? 9 A. Yes. 10 10 A. Yes. Q. I think your attorney and I have some 11 Q. Mr. Silvis may object to my questions 11 dispute, which I hope is not material, about 7 and from time to time. If he does and it's on the 12 8. I'm interested in the extent to which the EOIR 12 13 basis of privilege, he'll instruct you not to 13 has information about topic 7 and 8. I may ask 14 answer and you shouldn't do that. If it's on 14 you questions about that, too. We can cross that 15 15 another basis, then you can respond bridge when we get there. notwithstanding the objection. It's just made for 16 16 Do you understand that? 17 the record. Is that clear? 17 A. Yes. 18 A. Yes. 18 Q. What did you do to prepare for this 19 O. If you need to take a break for any 19 deposition? 20 reason, let us know. I'll ask you not to take a 20 A. Four things. I read all of the 21 break while a question is pending. Otherwise, 21 documents that were cited in the questions that 22 22 we've identified. I looked at some discovery feel free. 23 23 Are you taking any medications or drugs or is documents that were presented. I met with counsel 2.4 there any other reason why you would not be able 24 and the deputy chief immigration judge. 25 25 to testify fully today? Q. Who is that? Page 7 Page 9 1 A. No. 1 A. Edward Kelly. And then I contacted 2 Q. Do you understand, of course, that 2 immigration judges in the cities where the named 3 you're under oath today. Just like at trial, it 3 plaintiffs are located. So it would be Houston, 4 would be perjury if you give a false statement. 4 Los Angeles and Seattle and had handled juvenile 5 5 A. Yes. dockets. Q. And spoke with them? 6 Q. I previously marked as Exhibit 1 today's 6 7 7 30(b)(6) deposition notice. I'm going to hand you A. Correct. 8 that. Are you familiar with that document? Have 8 Q. Do you know the names of the judges that 9 you seen it before? If you flip to page 6, 9 you spoke with? 10 10 there's topics there. Are you familiar with that? A. Yes. So in Houston it would be Judge 11 (Witness reviewed the exhibit.) 11 Brisack and Judge Yates. In Los Angeles it would 12 12 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM: be Judge Travieso, Judge Tabador, and Judge Hong. 13 13 Q. Are you familiar with that document? Then in Seattle it would be Judge DeFonzo. 14 Have you seen it before? 14 Q. Are those the only judges that hear 15 15 A. I've seen portions of it. I'm not sure cases involving children in those cities? if it's the entire document. 16 A. No. They're the ones that I believe 16 17 Q. As I understand, you're authorized to 17 hear cases of -- the ones that are not adults with 18 speak for the Department of Justice on the some 18 children. I think they're doing more cases that 19 topics, but not others. Can you tell me which 19 are not family cases. 20 20 Q. So if a child is in a proceeding, but ones? 21 A. I don't recall, off the top of my head, 21 there's no adult consolidated with that proceeding 22 22 which specific numbers. in one of these cities, then one of these judges 23 23 MR. ARULANANTHAM: Can we go off the will hear that child's case? 24 record for one moment? 24 A. No adult I mean apart from counsel or 25 MR. SILVIS: Sure. 25 apart from a custodian.

Page 10 Page 12 1 1 Q. But otherwise that's correct? A. Either waiting for a case to go to USCIS 2 2 A. Um-hum. That's my understanding. for adjudication. 3 3 Q. What did you discuss with Ed Kelly, Q. Did you prepare any notes as part of the 4 4 preparation for this deposition? Judge Ed Kelly? 5 A. Not much. Really what I wanted to do 5 A. I took notes of my conversations with 6 6 was just to confirm the issuance of the policies, the judges. 7 just dates. Kind of it's an archival matter 7 O. Are they here? 8 A. The notes? 8 regarding the policy and really just to confirm, 9 to make sure that it was issued when I thought it 9 Q. Yeah. 10 was or how I thought it was. Nothing regarding 10 A. No. 11 the contents of the policy or how it's 11 Q. I read your Rodriguez testimony for 12 12 implemented. purposes of understanding a history of your 13 Q. By the policy you're referring to the 13 positions and employment history. Is there any 14 policies that are in the topics of the deposition 14 reason to believe that the testimony that you gave 15 15 there on that question is inaccurate for any notice? 16 16 A. Exactly, and not all of those, but there reason? 17 were certain ones I had questions. 17 A. It's not up to date, and I don't recall 18 Q. Do you remember which ones you discussed 18 the testimony. I honestly can't even remember 19 amongst these? 19 when the Rodriguez deposition was. 20 A. I do not. 20 Q. As to information beyond that, it would 21 21 Q. What did you discuss with the judges? be quite remarkable if you testified about that. 22 22 A. I understood what the policy was. I But as to your description of your history and job 23 23 wanted to make sure that they were aware of the responsibilities and things like that prior to 24 24 policies and to find out what they were doing that time, is there any reason to believe the 25 regarding implementation of the policies. 25 testimony you gave would not be inaccurate? Page 11 Page 13 1 Q. Do you remember how long you spoke for? 1 A. I don't recall the testimony. What I 2 A. It varied from judge to judge. 2 said under oath would be correct. 3 3 Q. These were individual conversations? Q. What is your title now? 4 A. Individual, each judge individual, A. My title now is assistant chief 4 5 5 um-hum. immigration judge. 6 Q. How long were the conversations roughly? 6 Q. Is there a particular area that you're 7 7 A. I would guess, I would estimate 45 responsible for as assistant chief immigration 8 minutes. Some were shorter because as you speak 8 judge? 9 to one -- there was consistency among judges. So 9 A. There's three. One is training. One is 10 10 as you spoke to one and you started to hear I supervise the daily operations of the 11 11 consistency in the policy, it wasn't necessary to immigration courts in the State of Pennsylvania. 12 12 I'm currently in an acting capacity as the keep going. 13 13 Q. Were there some areas where the judges assistant chief immigration judge for vulnerable 14 reported different implementation of the policies 14 populations. 15 15 vou discussed? Q. What are vulnerable populations? 16 16 A. Various among themselves? A. I think vulnerable populations are 17 Q. Right, between judges. 17 individuals who due to capacity or condition pose 18 18 a risk -- that if safeguard or protection is not A. Not significantly. 19 Q. Were there any that you can remember? 19 taken, there's potential that the proceeding could 20 20 A. There may have been an instance where be less than fundamentally fair. 21 one judge would continue and the other judge would 21 Q. What are the vulnerable populations for 22 administratively close. When I say not 22 whom in your view that may be true? 23 23 significantly, both stopped the proceeding for an A. The main focus is on mental competence 24 24 event to occur. and children, but I think without specific 25 Q. That's in the context of? 25 examples coming to mind, I think anybody that has

Page 14 Page 16 1 1 generally the training the judges undergo; is that a condition or capacity that creates a potential 2 that a hearing could be less than fair could fall 2 correct? 3 3 into that definition. That's not an official A. There's agendas for that training. It's 4 4 definition. That's my interpretation of it. the topics covered in the agenda that's put 5 Q. How long have you been in that role? 5 together. б 6 Q. But it's not limited to vulnerable But as I say that, I wonder if it's different for 7 the different three. How long have you been in 7 populations? 8 8 the role as the assistant chief immigration judge A. Correct. 9 for vulnerable populations acting? 9 Q. For 2013 to '15, you weren't working on 10 10 A. I had done it once before several years children specifically at all; is that right? 11 ago for a short period of time. I don't recall 11 A. Correct. 12 12 the year or how long that was. And the Q. Who do you report to now? 13 circumstances, they were hiring somebody and asked 13 A. Right now my first line supervisor would 14 me to do it until a person was hired or multiple 14 be the Deputy Chief Immigration Judge Michael 15 15 people were hired. That person then left, and I McGoings. 16 16 was approached in, I'm estimating, April of this Q. Who's his supervisor? 17 year to take that over again. 17 A. His supervisor right now is the acting 18 Q. Have you been responsible for the 18 chief immigration judge. His name is Robert 19 training of judges as part of your role as 19 Maggard, but he commonly goes by the name Print. 20 assistant chief immigration judge for a longer 20 Q. Is his supervisor Juan Osuna? 21 period of time than that? 21 A. No. His supervisor would be the deputy 22 22 A. Yeah. That I started approximately director of EOIR, Ana Kocur. 23 23 2009. O. How many people report to you, do you 2.4 Q. How long have you held the title 24 directly supervise? 25 assistant chief immigration judge? 25 A. Right now I have one person who is on a Page 15 Page 17 1 A. Since 2009 I was acting assistant chief 1 six-month detail who reports directly to me. I 2 2 for a short period. From 2013 to 2015 I was not have a contractor that I assign work to, and then 3 3 performing that role. So I was special counsel to it would be employees in the Pennsylvania 4 4 immigration courts, the immigration judges in the director of the EOIR on detail. So I was not 5 5 Pennsylvania, the court administrator, the an ACIJ for that period until I was approached 6 again in April and asked to handle the vulnerable 6 judicial law clerks in Pennsylvania. 7 7 populations and also the training. O. The six-month detail on the contractor. 8 8 From 2013 to 2015 I was serving a different did they work also on vulnerable populations? 9 role. I was not performing the functions. I 9 A. That person actually went on detail very 10 10 think officially my title was ACIJ. I was on soon after they were assigned to me in the office 11 11 detail, but I was not performing in that position. of chief immigration judge. So pretty much 12 12 I was not in the Office of Assistant Chief they're working on the combined federal campaign. 13 13 Immigration Judge. Really they came to me and went on detail totally 14 Q. What was the scope of your work as 14 unrelated. They're not doing anything related to 15 special counsel to EOIR from 2013 to 2015? 15 immigration and won't be back until February. 16 16 A. Largely implementing EOIR's nationwide Q. And then contractor? 17 policy for respondents with mental disorders, and 17 A. The contractor provides administrative 18 probably the other thing that occupied a lot of 18 support. 19 time was putting together EOIR's training 19 (Exhibit 11 was marked.) 20 20 conference for immigration judges, the Board of BY MR. ARULANANTHAM: 21 Immigration Appeals and agency attorneys. 21 O. I'm going to hand you what we will mark 22 22 Q. That training, the conference you just as Exhibit 11. The document I've handed you is a 23 23 described, that's on everything immigration judges memorandum to all immigration judges from David L 24 24 Neal, the assistant chief immigration judge. It's do: correct? It's not limited to any particular 25 subject matter. You're talking about training, 25 dated May 22, 2007. The subject line is

Page 18 Page 20 1 1 "Operating Policies and Procedures Memorandum A. Education which again applies in an 2 2 adult, but children based on age, just the fact 07-01." It goes on. 3 Do vou see the document I'm talking about? 3 they haven't been on the planet for a certain 4 4 amount of time obviously are going to have less A. I do. 5 Q. Are you familiar with this document? 5 education, less life experiences, those types of 6 6 A. I am. things. 7 Q. What is it? 7 O. What else? It says development and 8 8 A. It's an operating policy and procedure experience and self-determination. Do you know 9 9 memorandum. It's issued by the chief judge to what those refer to? 10 10 provide guidance to the immigration courts. It's A. Yeah. Development is child development, 11 11 a way that they announce policies to immigration physical development, psychological development of 12 12 a child. I think the thing that's important about iudges. 13 13 Q. Is it still in operation? this is it was also written when EOIR had less 14 A. It is. 14 experience dealing with children. So I'm not sure 15 15 Q. If you look on the second page in the if it was written today that this is exactly how second paragraph under Introduction, the last 16 it would be written. Just like other classes, 16 17 sentence says, "Issues of age, development, 17 documents many times are issued, and then as you 18 18 experience and self-determination impact how a get more experience. But I don't think that they 19 19 court deals with a child respondent." have gone through and there's been any need to at 20 20 Why is that true? this point rewrite that. But I don't know if it 21 21 A. Different respondents in court need was written today it would be written the same way 22 22 different treatment in order for the proceeding to it was back then. 23 23 Q. What would be said today in place of the be fair. So whether they're adult or children, 2.4 people's education, people's experience in the 2.4 sentence? 25 25 court system affect the way a judge needs to A. I wouldn't be -- I could be consulted, Page 19 Page 21 1 respond in a proceeding. 1 but, I mean, we would actually have to sit with 2 O. In order to make sure it's fair? 2 people, the judges who have experience and talk 3 3 A. Correct. about it and I think redraft it. I'm not saying 4 O. Are there features of childhood 4 the principles and the policies are not accurate. 5 5 specifically that make that concern true of But I think that with maturity of a process and 6 children as opposed to adults? 6 maturity of experience, that the guidance, the 7 7 A. I think if I understand your question -things we say might be different. 8 8 can you ask it again? Q. How would they be different? 9 Q. Sure. The sentence says things impact 9 MR. SILVIS: We're a little bit off 10 10 how to deal with a child respondent. My question topic. If you're asking him to -- he can answer was: Are there features or aspects or 11 11 for himself, but these aren't binding on the 12 characteristics of children in particular that 12 government. 13 13 make the concern about them not getting fair A. If I was going to write this now, I 14 proceedings particularly true as to them as 14 would take judges who are doing these cases and 15 children? 15 sit around the table, look at the sentences and 16 16 MR. SILVIS: Are we asking in the we'd probably consult with some experts. 17 context of this policy? 17 This was not prepared, to the best of my 18 MR. ARULANANTHAM: Yeah. I'm asking him 18 knowledge, with individuals who were experts in 19 to explain the sentence. 19 child development, child psychiatry, 20 20 A. I think each respondent stands on their psychologists. These well written by lay people. 21 21 own, but there are certain common characteristics In response to, I think it would be a 22 22 of children that would cause the judge to make collaborative drafting process to come up with a 23 23 sure that the proceeding is fair. new document. 24 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM: 24 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM: 25 O. What are those? 25 Q. I guess I got the sense -- if this is

Page 22 Page 24 1 1 wrong, please correct -- I got the sense from what MR. SILVIS: I'll object to outside the 2 2 you were saying earlier that you might take issue topic. Answer for yourself. 3 3 with the substance of this sentence today. A. No. I don't think it's inappropriate 4 4 MR. SILVIS: Same objection. for the court to give judges advice as to or 5 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM: 5 recommendations regarding how to best conduct a 6 6 Q. Is that true? proceeding so that it's fair. 7 A. I think the focus today would be more on 7 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM: 8 8 understanding the individual. Every child, Q. Involving a child though; right? 9 everybody is different and has different abilities 9 A. Involving any respondent. 10 10 to function. And they need to look at each one Q. But there isn't comparable guidance like 11 individually. I think that's something we really 11 this as to other groups of people other than I 12 12 learned from the Franco litigation, is to what assume other vulnerable populations; isn't that 13 level is somebody able to perform, and it varies 13 true? 14 from person to person and child to child. 14 MR. SILVIS: Same objection. 15 15 We can identify categories of items that A. When you say guidance like this, judges 16 16 would make us maybe look into that further, but I are taught for every respondent that the 17 think sweeping statements are not, based on our 17 proceeding has to be fair. Judges are given 18 experience, the way to go. 18 guidance as to how to conduct a fair proceeding. 19 Q. Do you think childhood itself is such a 19 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM: 20 category? 20 Q. But this is called guidelines for 21 21 MR. SILVIS: Same objection. You can immigration court cases involving unaccompanied 22 22 answer for yourself, but he's not answering for alien children. So I would think from that title 23 23 EOIR or DOJ. that it's suggesting that there might be 2.4 24 A. Different children are able to function guidelines that are specific to children or 25 at different levels. 25 unaccompanied alien children as a group. Do you Page 23 Page 25 1 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM: 1 disagree with that? 2 2 O. But are children as a category less A. Well, I think there are practices that 3 capable of functioning than adults for purposes of 3 judges can take in cases of children to make sure 4 that the proceedings are fundamentally fair. getting a fair hearing in immigration court? 4 5 5 Q. That's true for adults, too; isn't it? MR. SILVIS: Same objection. 6 A. I don't think that's fair to say. You 6 A. That is true. 7 7 have to look at the individual child. My child is O. Is there anything different about 8 8 children that would justify guidance specific to taking AP physics. I can't do AP physics. So I 9 don't think it's fair to categorize them. I think 9 children? 10 10 you have to look at each individual. MR. SILVIS: I'll object that we're 11 11 As I said, I think that's something we've outside the topic. You can answer for yourself. 12 12 learned, as I said, out of the Franco litigation, A. I'm going to go back to the fact that 13 13 is that different people are capable of performing for children you have to look at the child and you 14 at different functions, and what you have to do is 14 have to determine what the child can perform. And 15 15 you have to look at the individual. this document provides recommendations for 16 16 So while you may look at age and you may look children that you can take in the case of a child 17 at education, you have to look at the totality of 17 to make sure that the proceeding is fair. 18 18 the circumstances and the individual and make an For example, it says that -- one of the 19 individual assessment as to what somebody is able 19 examples they give is that the judge has the

authority to remove the robe. That doesn't mean

for an adult that you cannot remove the robe. A

that's why I disagree with the statement, because

that is something that we would -- did we write

guidance that says you can take off the robe for a

judge? Actually it says the judge is supposed to

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to perform or is not able to perform.

Q. Would you say then that it's

in light of what you're saying now?

inappropriate for the agency even to be issuing

child specific guidance and protocols for judges

BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:

Page 26 Page 28 1 1 concern to ensure that the safeguards are followed wear the robe. 2 2 But in all of our policies the overlying for children than for adults, no need for any 3 3 concern is due process. So in spite of the fact particular special procedures in cases involving 4 they issue policy that says a judge should wear a 4 children? 5 black robe in every proceeding, if I have an adult 5 MR. SILVIS: Same objection. 6 6 respondent that I think for some reason that the BY MR. ARULANANTHAM: 7 fact I'm wearing the robe is impacting, I can take 7 O. Is that your testimony? 8 8 step. So yes, this was drafted with regard to A. No. That's your testimony. My 9 children, but that doesn't mean the steps cannot 9 testimony is that in every single case, the judge 10 10 be used or that we're not training with regard to has to look at the respondents and the particular 11 other individuals. 11 abilities of the respondent and put in place 12 12 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM: safeguards and protections to make sure that that 13 13 Q. When you say other individuals, you proceeding is fair. And just because somebody 14 really mean any other individual; correct? 14 doesn't fall into a specific category of child or 15 15 A. Any respondent to immigration adult, detained or not detained, does not mean 16 16 proceedings. that we don't need to assess that person and make 17 Q. I still want to understand your view on 17 sure that their proceeding is fair. 18 whether it's the department's view that there is 18 There are certain categories of safeguards 19 anything different about children as a category 19 and protections that we're going to take in some 20 that justifies particular attention to the need 20 cases and not others. But, again, they vary, and 21 21 for safeguards to them as a group. you have to look at the individual. 22 22 Q. Besides this, there are a number of MR. SILVIS: Objection. Asked and 23 23 answered. I'll also say it's off topic. You can policies that are specifically focused on children 2.4 24 answer for yourself, but not for DOJ. that the department has issued; correct? 25 A. There are certain steps that we 25 A. Correct. Page 27 Page 29 recommend be taken specifically for children that 1 Q. Why the focus on children not just in 1 2 we do not take for other populations. 2 this policy, but in several policies in the 3 3 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM: guidance that's given to immigration judges? Q. Why is that? 4 4 MR. SILVIS: Objection. We're really 5 5 MR. SILVIS: Same objection. far off topic now. If you want to answer for 6 A. Because we determined that that allows 6 yourself, you can do so, but not for DOJ. 7 7 the proceeding to be fundamentally fair. There MR. ARULANANTHAM: You can say that 8 8 are certain safeguards and protections that we can once. You don't need a speaking objection. You 9 9 say it's off topic. That's fine. It's preserved. apply based upon the individual respondent that we 10 10 can take, again, whether they're a child or adult. Don't waste our time. 11 11 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM: MR. SILVIS: Why don't we get on topic. 12 12 Q. Whether an child or adult. Is there any MR. ARULANANTHAM: We are on topic. 13 13 reason why a judge should be more concerned about MR. SILVIS: Which topic are we on? 14 applying these safeguards and policies that we'll 14 MR. ARULANANTHAM: We're on one. 15 15 be discussing for the next few hours in cases MR. SILVIS: Other policies other than 16 16 involving children as a general matter than cases the one mentioned here? 17 involving adults? 17 A. I'm sorry. I lost the question. 18 MR. SILVIS: Same objection. Also asked 18 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM: 19 19 Q. There are a number of policies which are and answered. 20 20 A. Due process applies equally in all focused on providing guidance, particularly in

cases involving children. My question is why the

need for the department to issue policies specific

MR. SILVIS: Same objection. Asked and

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to children?

answered.

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cases. The judges have the same obligation

sure that the proceeding is fair.

BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:

regardless of the age of the respondent to make

Q. So there's no need then for a greater

Page 30 Page 32 1 1 A. Certain policies authorize judges to use 18. Sometimes they use 21. I don't know why 2 2 take additional steps to ensure the fairness, to they picked the different numbers in different 3 3 make it clear that the judge and to specify steps, sections of the act and regulations, the specific 4 4 specific steps. That doesn't mean that the judge numbers that they use. 5 cannot take those steps without that guidance, but 5 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM: 6 6 there's specific information that's provided and Q. My question is whether in the view of 7 7 best practices that can be used to protect the department -- you're a 30(b)(6) witness. 8 8 different respondents. You're speaking on behalf of the department. The 9 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM: 9 department cites a memo that draws the line at 18 10 10 Q. And the reason why there are ones that for purposes of this regulation. I'm asking you 11 focus on children? 11 whether there is a rationale in the view of the 12 12 MR. SILVIS: Asked and answered. department for drawing that line in this context? 13 13 Objection. MR. SILVIS: Same objection. 14 14 A. At the number 18 I don't know the A. To provide guidance in conducting a 15 15 fundamentally fair hearing for children. answer. 16 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM: 16 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM: 17 Q. The next page of it, page 3, it says at 17 Q. Two paragraphs down, both of the next 18 the end of the paragraph under "Definition of 18 paragraphs really, the Department of Homeland 19 Unaccompanied Alien Child," it says, "The 19 Security Act of 2002 talks about unaccompanied alien child. That definition also is tied to the 20 regulations define juveniles as an alien under the 20 21 age of 18." Do you see that? 21 age of 18 years. Is that your understanding? 22 22 A. Yes. A. Yes. 23 23 Q. Why do the regulations draw a line at O. Do you know what the rationale is for 2.4 24 that? 18? 25 A. I don't know. I didn't draft that. I 25 MR. SILVIS: Same objection. Page 31 Page 33 don't know the legislative history behind that. 1 A. Again, I did not draft the legislation. 1 2 O. So speaking for the department, is it 2 I don't know the legislative history as to why 3 3 the department's view that there's a justification they selected 18. 4 for drawing a line at the age of 18 for purposes 4 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM: 5 5 of the regulations? Q. This memo, do you know what age cut-off 6 MR. SILVIS: Objection. We're off topic 6 this memo uses? 7 7 unless you can identify that in the 30(b)(6). A. Practices and procedures in this memo 8 MR. ARULANANTHAM: It's in the memo. 8 can apply to any child. It's not age specific. 9 MR. SILVIS: That's true. 9 Q. Well, you're a child, aren't you? You 10 10 MR. ARULANANTHAM: Just say objection. have parents? 11 Don't guide the witness. Say objection. Outside 11 A. (Nodding.) 12 the scope. Then he answers the question. 12 Q. So what do you mean by that? There must 13 13 MR. SILVIS: You can answer on behalf of be some age that this is by reference to, isn't 14 yourself, if you can. 14 there? 15 15 MR. SILVIS: Objection. That's A. I keep losing the questions. 16 16 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM: argumentative. 17 Q. The regulations also define juvenile as 17 A. The memo provides recommendations that 18 an alien under the age of 18. Then it cites a 18 judges are free to adopt in addition to regular 19 19 regulation. practices to make sure the hearing is fair for 20 My question is: Is it the position of the 20 respondents. 21 department that there's a justification for 21 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM: 22 22 drawing a line at age 18? Q. So you don't read this memo as applying 23 23 MR. SILVIS: Same objection. to any age range. It could apply to people in 24 24 their '40s and 50s? A. The immigration laws with regard to age 25 vary. Some points they use 14. Some points they 25 A. These are best practices. I don't see

Page 34 Page 36 1 1 A. In my reading of it, that's not the any reason that you cannot adopt these practices 2 to make sure the hearings are fair for others. 2 purpose nor the intent of it. It is to make sure 3 3 O. That wasn't my question. My question young people in immigration proceedings, 4 was: Do you read the memo as being focused on any 4 regardless of a specific numerical cut-off, 5 particular age group? 5 receive a fair hearing, and it makes б 6 A. Yes. Obviously the memo in its title is recommendations to make sure that those people get 7 guidelines for cases of unaccompanied alien 7 a fair hearing. 8 8 children. BY MR. ARULANANTHAM: 9 Q. What age group do you think that refers 9 Q. When you train immigration judges, you 10 10 to when it uses the word children, what age group? train on procedures that should be applied to 11 A. The statute sets it at 18. 11 cases involving children including on this memo 12 12 Q. But the memo mentioned that statute, but and some of the other topics that are here; 13 13 it also mentions other definitions. Like you correct? 14 said, in some contexts it can be 21. In some 14 A. It was a compound question. 15 15 contexts the word minor is used for 14. But the Q. I'll rephrase it. You train immigration 16 16 judges about how to proceed in cases involving memo is not only about the statute. It's about 17 procedures that are applicable to children in 17 children; right? 18 18 immigration cases; correct? A. I have participated in training 19 19 A. Correct. regarding handling cases of children. 20 20 Q. What age range is the memo speaking to Q. When you do that, do you talk about a 21 21 in that context? particular age range that immigration judges 22 22 MR. SILVIS: Objection. Asked and should use when dealing with cases involving 23 23 answered. children? 2.4 24 A. I try to avoid doing that for this A. The number is not what's important here. 25 25 reason: there are so many labels that have been Page 35 Page 37 1 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM: 1 put onto children. You have some people refer to 2 2 O. That's not my question. My question is them as iuveniles. Some refer to them as 3 what age range does the memo speak to? 3 unaccompanied alien children, and there have been 4 MR. SILVIS: Same objection. 4 adults with children, that I think the general 5 5 A. Children. category -- and when we did the training for the 6 6 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM: judges on juveniles, we said this relates to 7 Q. Without any age range? 7 children because you don't want to cut them off 8 8 A. The memo applies across the board to because a certain statute or regulation or memo or 9 children. 9 practice calls them juveniles once and 10 10 Q. When you say to children what are you unaccompanied alien children. 11 referring to? Are you referring to an age range, 11 As I mentioned, they're all young people who 12 or do you just mean people born of parents? 12 find themselves in immigration proceedings. The 13 13 MR. SILVIS: Are you asking him fact that one memo says 18 or another one says 14 personally or the department? 14 juvenile doesn't mean that the importance of this 15 MR. ARULANANTHAM: He said it applies to 15 memo, which is what can a judge do to make sure 16 children. I'm asking what did he mean by the word 16 that the proceeding is fair, should be barred or 17 17 children. not applied because of a specific number was put 18 A. I mean generically people who are young 18 in a regulation or somebody chose to call them 19 19 without regard to a specific numeric cut-off date. juveniles and didn't call them unaccompanied 20 20 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM: children. 21 21 O. So you think this memo applies to people Q. So the memo here, does it apply only to 22 22 who are young, but isn't meant to impose any unaccompanied alien children? 23 23 particular age range; is that right? A. No. 24 MR. SILVIS: Objection. Asked and 24 O. You would say --25 answered. 25 A. As far as the practice is. This

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applies, I think, to represented the children as well.

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Q. So you would say the need for the safeguards that are talked about in this memo would be present whether or not the child has a lawyer, whether or not the child has a custodian or adult, other persons standing next to, them regardless, the need for heightened safeguards because they're children should be present; is that correct?

MR. SILVIS: I'll object to the scope. It's off topic.

A. On a case-by-case basis, you're going to 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 actually what judges can do to make sure that the proceeding is fair.

BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:

Q. So the fact that the child may be there with another adult would not obviate the need for the judge to pay special care to this case because it involved a child; is that correct?

MR. SILVIS: Same objection.

A. They would be able to consider the

Q. In your capacity as the assistant chief immigration judge of vulnerable populations, do you track the extent to which immigration judges use the procedure described in this memo in cases involving children?

A. We meet with a lot of stakeholders. So 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 something like this, they very well could bring it to my attention. They can file a complaint. It may come up in an appeal to the Board of Immigration Appeals and to the Circuit.

As far as track, if we're meaning am I reading the cases and sitting in the courtrooms with them, no. But do I try to stay aware of training needs of judges? Yes.

- Q. If a judge didn't undertake one of the practices described in this memo in cases involving children, that would not be a violation of any rule because the practices outlined in this memo are discretionary guidelines, not mandatory requirements for judges; is that correct?
- A. The judges have found that some of the recommendations -- in most of the memos we're

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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:

Q. Under C. on page four -- actually before 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 whether special attention is required."

Do you see that sentence?

- A. Yes.
- Q. So none of the practices outlined in this memo are mandatory, is that correct, on immigration judges I mean?
- A. They would all be weighed against due process needs.
- Q. In your supervisory capacity, do you track whether immigration judges use these different procedures outlined in this memo in cases involving children?
 - A. In my supervisory capacity of?
 - O. Of immigration judges.
 - A. I only supervise judges in Pennsylvania.

going to be discussing today, there's always a due process category. This is the guidance. But due process is important. What judges have found in applying some of these is that some worked better than others and some do not.

A specific example is the removal of the robe. The idea I think when this memo was drafted was that if a child is in court and a judge is wearing a robe, it might be intimidating. And we had a rule that said you had to wear a black robe. So the idea was if you take off the robe, it may be less intimidating for the child. This doesn't say you must remove your robe. But it gives you the authority to do that.

In speaking with immigration judges and from our experience, the judges actually found removing the robe doesn't help the fairness of the proceeding, doesn't make the child more comfortable and that actually having the robe does two things, one, it shows it's a solemn important proceeding which will then allow the child -- send the message you need to show up for court. We're doing important things.

But they also found wearing the black robe in the cases of children sets them apart from other Page 42 Page 44

actors in the courtroom and that it distinguishes the judge from others and it's less confusing because it identifies this is the person, this is the person that's in charge. So the judges found actually it makes the hearing fairer or it's a better practice to leave the robe on.

So that's also an example of how when this was drafted in 2007, it was the best intent that that be something that would really -- judges could do. And I think the idea, the notion was 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 does not take off the robe and that's their rationale for doing it, no, we're not going to take action against the judge or say you're violating because they're doing it with the intent of making the proceeding fair.

- Q. I take it there must be other practices described in this memo you still believe are useful to ensure proceedings for children remain fair?
- A. Definitely.

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- Q. Can you give me an example of one?
 - A. I think talking to the children in plain

that all of these must be used or a certain set of these or a certain number. It's not a pass/fail. If I saw a judge was not using a particular one, I would inquire as to why and what they thought the impact -- like I said, for example, the robe that I gave.

BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:

- Q. Have you ever done that where it wasn't like the robe, but where you thought it would make a difference and have you ever inquired as to why a judge is not using such a procedure?
- 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.
- A. Can I have a moment to think about that last?
- Q. You can flag it and come back to it or I can ask you later.
- A. The reason I want to say is because we do provide recommendations on best practices. What I don't recall right now is whether it's in response to the fact of hearing that one of these was not followed or just because we want to promote best practices.
 - Q. Look at the paragraph C., the second

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Page 43

sentence.

- A. I'm sorry. One other. Also, we do train generally, which would include training regardless of whether someone is doing the practice or not, that would refresh as well regardless of the specific...
- Q. Paragraph C., second sentence, "Immigration judges should encourage the use of appropriate pro bono resources whenever a child respondent is not represented."

Is that still the position of the department?

- A. Judges should incur pro bono representation for all respondents, and that's why we have pro bono liaison judges in all of our courts.
- Q. There's nothing special about children's cases that there should be greater attempts to find pro bono resources for children than for adults; is that right?

MR. SILVIS: Object to the scope.

A. Judges in all cases should encourage the use of appropriate pro bono resources. It does say whenever a child is represented. That's a perfect example of the fact that the courts want to encourage for all respondents pro bono.

language, giving breaks, letting somebody sit with the child -- I don't know that this is really being done, but the ability to bring in a toy. There's a number of things.

So I think what this does it gives you a cafeteria, it gives you a laundry list of things that you can do that maybe you thought of or didn't think of and puts it out there for your consideration. I think the sentence that you cited really supports you should on a case-by-case basis assess that child and decide for this child robe on/robe off.

Q. If a judge didn't allow or utilize some of the procedures that you're talking about, 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 have done that because they might have thought it appropriate to ensure the proceedings are fair, is there any consequence that would flow to the judge for declining to use one of those procedures?

MR. SILVIS: Objection. Asked and answered.

A. You have to look at the specific case as to what was used and what was not used. It's not

Page 46 Page 48 1 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM: A. It is true of adults. 2

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Q. My question though was whether there is anything specific, any particular guidance to judges to encourage pro bono in cases involving children. I can't tell from your answer if the answer to that is no. You said there is guidance as to all people, the judges should try to find pro bono for all people, unrepresented people. So there's no particular emphasis or directive on judges attempting to find pro bono representation for pro se children as opposed to any other pro se person; is that right?

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MR. SILVIS: Object to the form.

A. I'm not finding anything specifically about the fact that the child -- that the respondent is a child that would make it more important that we look for a pro bono representative or we should not encourage that any more than we should for an adult. The goal for both -- just like the sentence above it, where a list of pro bono services is available, the judge should provide it to the child, well, the judge should provide it also to the adult. BY MR. ARULANANTHAM: Q. There's nothing about the fact you're a

Q. So what you said, the fact that the person is a child, would make you want to inquire

further? Why? Whether or not they're a child, you have to inquire; isn't that true?

A. Whether or not they're a child -because what I'm saying and I've been saying is that all respondents are capable of performing at different levels and for all respondents, we're going to take certain actions to make sure that the hearing is fair. And my personal opinion --

Q. I'm asking you in your capacity as 30(b)(6) witness.

A. In my capacity as a 30(b)(6) witness, you are attempting to get me to categorize or put people into certain boxes on a continuum of functions that I'm not comfortable with and that I don't think is consistent with what we're training 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 not train judges to be more concerned about pro bono representation for children than for adults. They should be equally concerned about pro bono representation in all the cases involving

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child that makes you more than in need of pro bono representation than an adult?

- A. You're going to look at the individual circumstance of the respondent.
- Q. That's not what I asked. I asked, there's nothing about the fact someone is a child -- nothing else. You haven't yet looked at anything else. All you know is this person is a child and that person is an adult. There's nothing about the fact they're a child that makes them more in need of pro bono representation than an adult: is that correct?

MR. SILVIS: Object on the topic. Outside the scope.

MR. ARULANANTHAM: I'm asking if that's the position of the department in response to this sentence.

MR. SILVIS: Same objection.

Q. Is that not also true of adults?

A. I think the fact that the respondent is a child is going to make you inquire regarding what that child is able to do or not able to do, and that is going to educate your decision regarding pro bono representation. BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:

unrepresented people?

A. We're going to consider it on a 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 that children or detainees or adults may have that may as a stereotypical matter make you look into things, but what is the real focus is on the individual ability to function. And so they're all --

As you're aware from the Franco, there are certain indicia or indicators that may turn out to be accurate or not. So what you're going to look at is indicators that somebody may not be able to perform functions and investigate it.

MR. SILVIS: Are you finished with your answer?

BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:

Q. You would train judges to look for those indicators, and it's the department's position the judges should be trained to look for those indicators in all cases, not especially children

Page 50 Page 52 1 1 in every case; is that correct? these issues. And what it's talking about above 2 2 A. Correct. is various issues involving children. 3 3 Q. The next two sentences down, it says, A. Um-hum. 4 4 "Although there is no independent court role for a Q. Is there child respondent specific 5 personal representative or guardian ad litem," 5 training at EOIR? 6 6 A. Yes. then it goes on. 7 What do you understand those two terms to 7 O. Which judges get that? 8 8 A. Most recently it was the judges that are mean? What's a personal representative in this 9 context? Let's start there. What's a personal 9 presiding -- that have a significant -- we've 10 10 representative in this context? established juvenile dockets at the courts, and 11 11 A. I have absolutely no idea. Again, I it's the judges that are spending a significant 12 12 think that's a suggestion of the immaturity or I portion of their time adjudicating or presiding 13 13 should say we had less experience when this was over those juvenile dockets. 14 14 MR. SILVIS: You have to let him finish. drafted. 15 15 Q. You're talking about the immaturity of THE WITNESS: This time it's my fault. 16 16 the agency? I took a long pause. 17 A. The lack of experience what a personal 17 A. So that was mandatory for the judges in 18 representative, I think it's ambiguous. I'm not 18 April of 2015. What we did was we provided it 19 sure what was meant. And I think that's why I say 19 again at the legal training conference in 2015. 20 we're trying to pick apart words that I don't know 20 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM: 21 today would be used the same because I think we 21 Q. Was there child specific training 22 22 have a better understanding and a lot more produced for judges prior to 2015? 23 23 experience. A. Yes, ves. 2.4 2.4 What the drafter meant when they said there's Q. Do you know when that started? 25 no independent court role for a personal 25 A. I took over in 2009. That's when I Page 51 Page 53 representative, I'm not sure which who they were 1 first was involved in identifying and organizing 1 2 2 envisioning as a personal representative in this. training. I know that I did have specific child 3 3 Q. If you were writing this today to update topics in those trainings. 4 4 Q. Are there what you called children's to reflect the department's current view, what's 5 5 dockets is the word you used? the word you would use to refer to -- to 6 substitute for personal representative? 6 A. Juvenile dockets. 7 7 MR. SILVIS: Object to the question, not O. Are there juvenile dockets in every 8 within the topics that were designated. 8 location where there are cases involving children? 9 A. I would actually leave out the sentence 9 A. There have been arrangements for 10 10 because I don't think it adds anything there. juvenile dockets in every location. Some courts 11 11 Immigration judges do not have the authority to just don't have juveniles on the docket. So as 12 12 appoint guardians ad litem. We don't have the ironic as it sounds, in an adult male detention 13 13 legal authority to do it. So I don't even know facility where we do not see children and there's 14 why that's even being discussed in the memo. 14 criminals, we still have made arrangements for a 15 15 Again, I'd look at the intent or what they iuvenile docket, but they don't see children. 16 16 intended, maybe draft it clearer, but I don't Q. Are judges trained to identify a child 17 think I would put it in here. And what they mean 17 respondent when a person appears in court? 18 by independent court role, I'm not sure what that 18 A. The notices to appear are marked from 19 19 DHS, and then judges may ask about the age of the means. I can't appoint a guardian ad litem 20 saying -- it's not something I would probably put 20 child or there will be documents indicating age. 21 in or figure out what I meant and then clarify it. 21 Q. They're marked as UC for unaccompanied

A. Unaccompanied child is marked UC.

Q. Is there some other marking for other

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BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:

Q. At the bottom of that page, paragraph

provided training to immigration judges on some of

E., it makes a reference to training. OCIJ has

child?

children?

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- A. There are different codes for adults with children.
- Q. Do those codes cover the universe of possibilities for children being in immigration court?
 - A. No, no.

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- Q. So for a child where the NTA doesn't have a specific marking, how would the judge know that the respondent before them is a child?
- A. As far as -- I mean, we're talking -- there's certain obvious common sense things that you can recognize in a child. I think where we're looking is -- are we talking about the issue where -- well, you're asking the questions, not I -- where it's not clear whether someone is a child?

They're put on the juvenile dockets. They may be brought in by the shelter. I think mostly those determinations are made in advance. But there's nothing that in the course of the proceeding, that if an immigration judge has a question regarding age, that they can't inquire.

Q. Similarly, I see there's no requirement that the immigration judge on a nonjuvenile docket take steps to determine whether the person in essentially their case should be transferred to a juvenile docket, is that what you mean?

I'm trying to figure out what you mean by rescheduled. Do you mean transferred to a juvenile docket or do you mean something else?

- A. The juvenile dockets are set up to address the juvenile cases. Obviously that's our goal. It is possible that if a child ended up on an adult docket, the judge would, in essence, do the case by itself or take appropriate measures. I can't say for sure. I think they would -- I can't say for sure I suspect you could find a child on an adult, but I think the judge would take the steps to make sure the case is treated as a juvenile docket case even if it shows up on the adult docket.
- Q. That judge might not have been trained on juvenile docket practices because the juvenile docket trainings are only for judges who handle 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 trainings. The 2015 conference was available and some of the trainings that were mandatory were for

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front of them is a child or not; correct?

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

all judges, not just those who handle juvenile dockets.

- Q. So every judge in the August 2015 training, all the immigration judges in the entire system were trained on child specific practices?
- A. No. It was offered as a course. For example, when I did my docket, I didn't see any children. So I'm not going to going sit in that particular training. I'm going to attend one that fits the type of cases and dockets.
- Q. Do you have any data or evidence as to the prevalence of children's case that are not on the juvenile dockets?
- A. Only from when I spoke to the judges. It's very, very rare. They said it's really an exceptional circumstance that that would happen.
- Q. The judges you spoke to are judges that are handling the juvenile docket; correct?
 - A. Correct. It's not commonplace.
- Q. I'm going to hand you what we will mark 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 copy of the agenda for the April 23-24 training..."

Page 58 Page 60 1 1 And then behind that there are a number of Q. There's another one at 2:30 where you 2 2 were on the panel called Decidedly Different: pages which include in them an agenda for 3 3 training. Do you see that? Presiding Over Proceedings Involving Children. 4 4 A. Yes. A. Yes. 5 (Exhibit 12 was marked.) 5 Q. What was the content of that 6 6 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM: presentation? 7 O. You spoke at this training; correct? 7 A. I was afraid you were going to ask me 8 that because I don't recall specifically what was 8 A. Correct. Q. Is this the training that was for judges 9 9 covered at that presentation. I'd have to look 10 10 who are handling juvenile docket? at. I don't even know if I have speaking notes at 11 11 A. Correct. this point. 12 12 Q. On Thursday -- this is on EOIR257 -- the Q. Do you recall what you presented? 13 second session is Children Are Not Little Adults: 13 A. I don't recall whether I was the 14 Child Development and Functionality. Do you see 14 moderator or presenter. Some of the people listed 15 15 that? may have been moderators. I thought about that 16 16 A. Yes. because I expected you were going to ask that. 17 Q. Did you attend that? 17 Unfortunately, I just can't recall. 18 18 Q. There's the second session of the same A. I did. 19 19 Q. What was said by Dr. Mack at that one. It's on the next day at 11:00. Do you 20 training? 20 remember that? 21 A. In a very general summary, what it did 21 A. I remember the session and I remember 22 22 is it tracked children from the time of birth up hearing them speak generally I think probably 23 through adulthood and tracked the development of 23 because I was in charge of the administration of 2.4 24 the whole program. I honestly don't recall having the child. 25 any notes of the presentation. I don't even 25 Q. When you say tracked, did it the discuss Page 59 Page 61 1 the different capacities that children have at 1 recall today whether I was the moderator. 2 2 different ages? O. And no recollection as to the contents 3 3 of the presentations by anyone, either by you or A. Yes. 4 Q. Do you remember what age was considered 4 the other speakers? 5 5 A. I recall generally Maria Woltjen spoke adulthood in the context of the presentation? 6 A. I don't remember that being specified. 6 about child advocates, and Jennifer Nagda also 7 7 spoke about child advocates, which is why the O. What did it say about children's 8 8 capacity and functionality relative to adults? title is Decidedly Different, because child 9 A. What it did is it tracked that as a 9 advocates don't exist in the adult process. As a 10 10 child got older. It talked about verbal total resource, it just doesn't exist there. 11 I remember Steve talked about -- Steven Lang 11 communication. It talked about different 12 12 cognitive abilities, the way the children react, spoke about representation and what resources are 13 13 their perceptions at different ages. It was available for representation. He spoke about the 14 really a continuum of how people develop into 14 LOPC program. I'm sure Frank Travieso spoke about 15 15 handling the juvenile dockets. I have general adulthood. 16 recollection of why they were on the panel. I 16 Q. Was the description broken down even by 17 blocks of ages, by infancy, early childhood, 17 don't remember what Rene Cutlip-Mason spoke about. 18 adolescent, or no? 18 Q. You don't remember what you spoke about? 19 19 A. I think the continuum was there. I A. I don't, which is unusual for me, but 20 20 don't recall exactly how it was -- what labels honestly I don't. 21 were put on the different stages, whether it was a 21 Q. MaryBeth Keller on the first one, do you 22 22 continuous continuum or whether it broke into remember what she spoke about? 23 23 segments. I'd have to look back at his slides. A. In preparing and looking at the 24 24 O. This was a PowerPoint? documents, I don't even know why she was on the 25 A. This was a PowerPoint. 25 agenda for that topic. She is the ACIJ for

Page 62 Page 64 1 conduct and professionalism, and that was not the I'm talking about decidedly different. It may be 2 confusing. Even if you include the two decidedly topic here. And I have no idea why -- the 3 embarrassing thing about that is because I was the different ones -- let's talk about those. Was 4 one who invited her, and I don't know what I asked there any discussion in there, in those panels, her to speak about or why I put her on the agenda. 5

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Q. You are not listed on the speakers, but did you attend that?

A. I'm sorry?

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Q. Friday at 9:00.

A. I did attend that.

Q. Do you remember what was discussed on that panel?

A. The availability of resources to assist in the representation of children. And the reason 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 representation resources were available. But it was also covered to talk about representation of interests, such as the best interest determinations of children.

But also we get -- we were getting a lot of concern over abused children, trafficked children. So it was also to cover representation of those

about what judges should do differently?

A. I mean, in the sense that I see child advocates is in there, so obviously that's something judges are going to do differently.

Q. What else?

A. I think Frank Travieso spoke largely about best practices in handling the cases, many of the recommendations that were in the OPPM 07-01, things that he was doing in his court to ensure the fairness, probably kind of a practical experience.

Q. Do you recall if the OPPM 07-01 was discussed?

A. I believe it was, but I can't say with absolute certainty.

O. So they're still training on the contents of 07-01 in April 2015; is that right?

A. Yeah. 07-01 is still in place, and I think what's being trained on is the techniques. And really the idea is to pull together all of the tools and resources and information that a judge

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Page 63

interests as well. It was kind of protection topics, trafficking topics.

Q. Recognizing that your memory of those three is fuzzy, do you recall any discussion in any of them about whether judges should handle cases involving children differently and, if so, how?

A. So in the representation of children and their interests, this one was designed to identify what pro bono resources were available and what representation resources were available. It was designed to cover what child advocate resources were available to cover bests interests.

It was also designed to basically give an idea, for lack of a better word, a cafeteria approach of what is out there and who is out there in the community that focuses their work on children's cases.

Q. So what about what judges should do differently, was there any discussion of that on these panels that you can recall?

A. The reason I put this one together was I wanted the judges to know what is in their toolbox.

Q. I'm not just talking about that one.

can use to assess in an individual case what is available to me.

So Steve would talk, for example, about justice AmeriCorps so that judges knew do I have a respondent that that does cover or would know if they want to consider whether a child advocate is appropriate, what is a child advocate, how do I get a child advocate, what is a difference between child advocate and a legal advocate.

That's really what the discussions were, what is available that you can use. In addition to 07-01 is some things, and you can reach out to them to make sure the hearing is fair.

Q. The one from the morning on Friday Proceed or Not To Proceed: In Absentia. Continuances and Administrative Closure. You were listed as one of the presenters on that.

A. Um-hum.

Q. Do you remember what that panel was about?

A. Yeah. It looked at whether to -- if a child doesn't show up, whether to proceed in the child's absence if DHS made a request to proceed in absentia.

Q. Can you tell me what the content of the

Page 66 Page 68 1 1 training was in that regard? MR. SILVIS: Is this a training issue? 2 A. Yes. That one I do remember. We 2 I want clarification on the question. Are we 3 3 covered the requirements for proceeding in still talking about training or just talking about 4 4 absentia. We covered verifying the notice to DOJ broader? 5 appear was served on the child, verifying that the 5 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM: 6 6 Q. You can answer the question if you notice of the hearing was correct and accurate, 7 whether there were circumstances to explain why 7 understand it. 8 8 the child did not show up. We looked at the MR. SILVIS: We'll just object, outside 9 requirement of that even if the child did not show 9 of the topic. So answer for yourself. 10 10 up and the judge did proceed to go in the case, A. I am aware that DHS does serve in some 11 11 the DHS had the burden of proving the allegations cases the notice to appear on ORR. 12 12 and charges. It's not just don't show up and go BY MR. ARULANANTHAM: 13 13 forward. Q. But you don't train that that's ever a 14 Q. You mean by that that the DHS has to 14 requirement; is that right? 15 15 prove that before the absentia order is entered? A. No. I don't train that you must serve a A. Right. There's no default judgment, 16 16 child's notice to appear on ORR. 17 right. There's still a burden of proof that needs 17 Q. That's because it is your understanding 18 to be established in the case. 18 that there is no such requirement; is that 19 19 O. The audience of this would have been correct? 20 judges? 20 MR. SILVIS: Same objection. 21 A. With juvenile dockets. 21 A. My training is that you have to have 22 real service notice, that a person must be aware 22 Q. Did you also discuss service issues? 23 A. Yes. 23 of the allegations and charges against them. And 2.4 24 so if ORR, for example, was served with a notice Q. What was discussed about that? 25 A. We talked about the requirements, the 25 to appear and the child does not recall receiving Page 67 Page 69 recent case regarding -- it's not so recent 1 it or the child did not recall getting it, that's 1 2 2 anymore -- regarding proper service on a child. what our training would be concerned. 3 3 Q. What case was that? So I would not teach that you must serve ORR. 4 4 A. I don't remember the name. It's a Board What I'm concerned is that the child is getting 5 5 of Immigration Appeals. Let me go back. That's proper service, do they really know what is going 6 not correct. I'm confusing with the case on 6 on, what the proceeding is about. 7 7 service of mental competence. BY MR. ARULANANTHAM: 8 8 Q. Is it Cougar Cruz? Q. Do you train that's the rule regardless 9 A. I'm really bad. As long as I've been 9 of the age of the child? 10 10 doing immigration cases, I'm not good at A. All respondents, yes. I think all 11 11 remembering the names. I can get the law right respondents for a fundamentally fair hearing need 12 12 which is important. to be advised of the allegations and the charges We talked about making sure the child was 13 that are pending against them. The way we do that 13 14 served with the notice to appear because it's 14 is by serving a notice to appear, but then there's 15 15 important the child be aware of the allegations also the legal requirement in the regulations that 16 16 and the charges. the judge must explain the allegations in plain 17 Q. Do you also train on a requirement that 17 language that the respondent can understand. 18 the EOIR custodian receive service? 18 Q. It must be true that there's some 19 A. A requirement? Am I training that ORR 19 children that are so young that even if they 20 20 must receive service of the notice? receive the notice and even if they're given an 21 21 O. In any cases, ves. explanation by the judge, they're still not going 22 22 A. No. I don't train that ORR must receive to understand what's going on; right? 23 23 A. I have to do a case-by-case basis service. 24 24 Q. I take it the ORR custodian is required determination. I've taught immigration law 25 to receive service? 25 literally to three year olds and four year olds.

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It takes a lot of time. It takes a lot of patience. They get it. It's not the most efficient, but it can be done.

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- Q. I understand that you think it can be done. Are you aware of any experts in child psychology or comparable experts who agree with the assessment that three and four year olds can be taught immigration law?
- A. I haven't read any studies one way or another.
 - Q. What about like a one year old?
- A. I mean, I think there's a point that there has to be communication. There has to be communication at some point.
- Q. So what do you train judges as to cases in which communication is impossible because the 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 proceed.
- Q. That's true regardless of whether there's some other individual who may be able to understand the proceeding?

safeguards and protections. So if the respondent

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

A. What is required at that point is

and protections were considered and why the judge concluded they were inadequate. It's kind of a multiple step analysis.

- Q. Do you know what case you're talking about, the name or date, that went up to the Board and came back on a remand? You're talking about a case involving a child; right?
- A. No. I'm talking about the mental competency context that when the judges failed to articulate the safeguards and protections, it came back. In the case of a child, I'm sure the same thing is going to happen. You can't just make a statement I'm terminating because I don't think it can be fair. The Board is going to require you to go through that extra step of considering safeguards and protections.
- Q. I want to come back to this issue of proceeding with safeguards. I was originally asking in the context of service. I wanted to tie the issue up on that. Imagine a case where a child, even though they received service, they still are not capable of understanding or recalling sufficiently for the service to be effective.

In a case like that, can service on the ORR

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or ORR custodian satisfy the service rules?

MR. SILVIS: I'll object to the scope. It's outside the topics.

BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:

- Q. I'm asking that question in the context of how you train.
 - A. Will service on ORR --
 - Q. They're the custodian.
 - A. Can you repeat it again. (The record was read back.)

MR. SILVIS: Same objection. A. There's two parts of the question, service on ORR or the ORR custodian. So I think there's custodians and there's custodians. I'm not sure that service on all custodians in my mind

judge -- I think it would depend on the custodian and who the custodian is, whether that was an effective safeguard, protection or proper service deemed legally sufficient for the hearing to be

or for training purposes as an immigration

fair. With regard to ORR --BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:

Q. I was talking about while the child was in ORR custody obviously.

A. You said custodian. You mean ORR is the

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. What we teach them to do is basically state that due to these issues, I do not believe that the respondent can perform functions needed for the hearing to be fair. I've evaluated safeguards and protections. And either state that the safeguard and protection is adequate, or if the judge feels it's not adequate, just state so and explain what safeguards and protections were considered and why they believe that even with that safeguard or protection, the proceeding is not fair.

The reason partly we did it this way is because when the judges were administratively closing or terminating the cases for these reasons and the case went back went up to the Board of Immigration Appeals, it came back on a remand saying the judge failed to explain what safeguards Page 74 Page 76

custodian?

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Q. Right, if ORR is the custodian, which is often the case, where the child is in ORR custody or if the child is released to a custodian that is somebody who ORR has designated.

A. I think there's custodians and there's custodians. There's custodians that are going to -- that you're going to speak to the custodian and find out whether that's an effective safeguard and protection. Is it a parent? What is the capabilities of that person? Is that sufficient?

With regard to ORR, just serving the notice on ORR without any indication as to whether the child has received it or is aware of it, that would not be my training that would be sufficient

- Q. Earlier when we were talking about a case --
- A. Let me say one thing, and I specifically recall having trained on that --
 - Q. On that being?

A. Service on ORR. If the notice to appear is served on ORR and then the child is in proceedings, then I think you need actual service, meaningful service, and I know that that --

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 do training on both sets of topics --
 - A. Right, right.

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Q. -- do you use mental health procedures and practices that you have implemented in that context to describe what immigration judges should do in cases involving children?

A. No. We use that same functionality analysis that I talked about. Really the trainings are separate. So you will see we don't do training on children and mental health because I think they're very different. There are different reasons. And the mental health requires a predicate mental disorder. There's no evidence these children have a mental disorder.

That's why I say I think we matured in our assessment of these cases and why I think 07-01 would be written differently because I think what we learned is we take the respondent and you look at the respondent and you look at the respondent's ability to function and see what they can perform and what they cannot perform and the impact of their inability to perform on fairness.

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because I specifically recall training on that and making that statement.

- Q. Earlier when we were talking, you had referred to a case about mental health cases in the context of describing the Board reversing an immigration judge's decision that failed to describe certain safeguards. Do you recall that testimony?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Do you think that analogy between children's cases and mental health cases is relevant when assessing what safeguards should be required to ensure that there's a fairing hearing?

MR. SILVIS: Object to the topic.

Outside the scope.

A. No. I think what is relevant is functionalities and factors that impairs one's ability to function in a manner that is required for the hearing to be fair. But I don't think there's an analogy between a person with a mental disorder and a child as far as a correlation between the functionalities. We're talking about about two different types of impairments.

I don't think that's accurate to say impairments. I think it's two different -- what

And we look at the impairment. And some 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. That's really the overarching analysis that I encourage with vulnerable populations. That's why I say I think we have a better framework now to be able to assess how an impairment, regardless of the cause. Even language ability or the fact that we can't find the exact interpreter, it's the same thing. If we don't have a good interpreter and that impairs the respondent's ability to function, if we can't get that exact dialect -- sometimes having a different dialect may not impair, other times it does. That's why I say that we'd kind of redo the way we do things sometimes based upon the knowledge and experience.

Q. So in some cases within that framework, the safeguard needed to ensure that the proceeding is fair is counsel; correct?

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MR. SILVIS: Objection.

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A. It's one that can be considered. That's why 07-01 and all these other things, the child advocate, I think together -- in the training we try to give a tool kit so that you can find the resource that you believe is necessary and that is the appropriate safeguard and protection in that case.

BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:

Q. So you would train that then sometimes 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 topics.

A. So we start with the supposition that judges should always encourage where possible pro bono representatives. We always want -- in all cases to the extent possible, we would like the respondents to be represented.

BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:

Q. Why is that?

A. It's much more effective. It makes a much more efficient, effective proceeding. Using the example that I mentioned, could I explain

cases where the only appropriate safeguards in order to ensure there's a fair hearing is either representation or stopping the hearing?

A. We've never trained on that one way or another. My goal is to really get a match. What is the ability to function and then you pick. I would never dictate to judges in a particular case you must use this safeguard or protection in every case.

I have to be mindful. I want them to be trained. I want them to understand. I want them 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 safeguards and protections in every case.

Q. And I take it that's true of EOIR as a general matter, you can't dictate how the judges actually implement safeguards in any particular case; is that right?

MR. SILVIS: Same objection.

A. Correct, I believe.

BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:

Q. Let me put one more set of exhibits into

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immigration concepts to a preschool class of three year olds and four year olds? Yes, but it took me a long, long time to do it. And so having a representative that can do a lot of work -- it's my obligation to make sure the hearing is fair, but if there's somebody that can do part of that work for me, it makes my life a whole lot easier. That doesn't mean --

Q. You were saying that you encourage probono representation as a general matter.

A. Um-hum.

Q. But do you also then train that in the context of children's cases that sometimes the safeguard needed to ensure that the hearing is fair is counsel?

A. In all cases we say that a safeguard and protection should be considered is representation, and we work hard to try to make as many pro bono resources available. We will ask the judge if they believe that in a particular child's case, if there is no pro bono representative available, to reach out to the Office of Legal Access Programs to see if we can get help for the child in that circumstance.

Q. Would you train that there may be some

the record and ask you quickly about them. This 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?

A. Yes.

(Exhibit 13 was marked.)

BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:

Q. Do you recognize this course description?

A. I do.

Q. What is it?

A. It is a list of course descriptions of courses that were done in the 2015 EOIR legal training program for judges. And just so you're not misled, I should explain the purpose of this document because it's probably not what you're thinking the purpose was.

This was prepared as part of the an application to get continuing legal education for these courses. It is meant to provide enough information so that the Office of Legal Education when they went to the various state bars could assess whether CLE credit was justified, whether there was enough legal content. It's not meant to be an actual description beyond CLE purposes of

Page 82 Page 84 1 1 what was covered or what was needed. A. I'm not aware of any study on that 2 2 There could be variance because this was topic. 3 3 prepared in advance of the conference because we Q. Is it something you have tried to assess 4 4 have CLE deadlines. So as far as its accuracy as anyway? 5 actually saying this is what's described so that's 5 A. Every case is different and different 6 6 exactly what was covered, I can't say that. It ones would be used in different cases. So I'm not 7 was a supporting documentation for CLE 7 sure how you could really compare apples and apples because every respondent is different. 8 8 documentation. 9 Q. This conference that this was submitted 9 Safeguards are different. 10 10 in advance for happened in August; is that right? I'm not sure -- I haven't requested it. I'm A. Correct. 11 11 trying to do -- in analyzing the docket, you have 12 12 Q. On the second page, which is EOIR260, to make sure you're comparing similar things. down at the bottom there's "Child Development and 13 13 Tough to figure out because there's so many 14 Eliciting Accurate Information from Child 14 variables. 15 Witnesses." Do you see that? 15 Q. If you look on page 6 of that under V, 16 16 A. Yes. there's a sentence at the top that says, "There's 17 Q. You presented on the panel on that 17 a consistency in the published recommendations for 18 subject with Dr. Mack; is that correct? 18 improvements in handling children's cases." 19 19 A. No. I was the moderator. Do you know what that refers to, the 20 Q. Do you remember the content of that? 20 published recommendations? 21 21 A. I was a moderator. To get CLE you have A. Yeah. I think that goes to things that 22 22 to have an attorney on the panel to ask legal are adopted here, the notion of making the child 23 questions. He presented. And it was basically 23 feel comfortable in the proceeding. 2.4 identical to his presentation. The presentation 24 Q. I'm sorry. It says published 25 at the other one we looked at from Dr. Mack was so 25 recommendations. Do you know if there's a set of Page 83 Page 85 1 effective that we invited him back again. 1 publications somewhere, like a list of them? I 2 2 O. How did you measure its effectiveness? don't mean like what's their context, but what are 3 3 A. By comments of the attendees and people the published recommendations, do you know? You 4 4 ask for copies of his slides, which mean, it's talking about these, like this thing 5 unfortunately -- I shouldn't say unfortunately. 5 being published. 6 6 Actually, it was included as part of the training A. No, no. I think what it's talking 7 7 CD from this program. about, in the literature that makes 8 8 (Recess from 2:28 p.m. to 2:37 p.m.) recommendations of steps you can take to handle 9 MR. SILVIS: Before we go on with 9 the cases of children, that the suggestions that 10 10 questioning, I'd like to see if you agree with are here, like taking off the robe, like allowing 11 11 this stipulation. To the extent I object and just the children to bring toys and who they sit with, 12 12 say objection topic, that the objection is that that these are consistent with those other 13 13 it's outside the topic of the 30(b)(6) and our recommendations. 14 objection is that this witness is only answering 14 Q. Do you know specifically what the other 15 15 on behalf of himself. recommendations is referring to? Is it a set of 16 16 MR. ARULANANTHAM: Much appreciated. articles? Is it a set of books, guidelines? Do 17 17 MR. SILVIS: Agreed? you know what it's referring to? 18 MR. ARULANANTHAM: Yeah, agreed. 18 A. I didn't draft it. I don't know what 19 19 MR. SILVIS: It will go faster. specific documents they looked at. I think what 20 20 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM: we're recommending is kind of the norm in the 21 O. Let's go back to the 07-01 memo for just 21 field based on other courts and other literature 22 22 a minute. As to the use of all of these generally, but I don't know what specifically they 23 23 procedures, is there any data or evidence that looked at. 24 24 their use improves the outcomes in immigration O. I want to ask you about topic 11 which

is about the role of nonattorney adults who

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cases?

Page 86 Page 88 1 accompany unrepresented children into immigration 1 to do that would be up to the immigration judge in 2 court. Do you train on that subject? 2 a particular case; is that right? 3 3 A. I would say broadly. I can't remember A. The key word is might because what the 4 how specific the training -- how specific the 4 judges indicated during their conversations is training is. I would say yes, but I don't recall 5 that they would communicate with the person and 6 6 establish the relationship and figure out who that content. 7 7 person is and make a determination on a O. So you're authorized to speak not only 8 on training, but also on the substance of what the 8 case-by-case basis. agencies rules are about such individuals? 9 Q. What are the criteria that go into that 10 10 A. Yes. determination, say, in my hypothetical example 11 11 Q. I want to ask you some questions about where you have a nonparent relative who is waiving 12 12 claims for relief, conceding removability, 13 13 A. Okay. defending allegations? 14 14 A. I've never thought about it, and I don't Q. Can they, meaning nonattorney adults who 15 15 accompany unrepresented children in immigration know that the agency has taken a position on that. 16 16 court, can they perform any of the tasks that I think there's just a huge range of totality of 17 would normally be performed by a lawyer? 17 the circumstances that a judge would consider 18 18 A. I'm not aware of any law that really based upon the person and whether the judge is of 19 19 speaks directly to that issue. There are things the opinion that that person can perform the 20 20 that say what you cannot do without the person functions needed for the hearing to be fair and 21 21 there. But there's not a lot of guidance out that whether that person would be an effective 22 22 there as to what the role -- what that person can safeguard and protection. 23 23

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Q. Would you say the department then does not have specific rules about what such people can

Q. There's certainly no blanket bar to having the person make those kinds of decisions for the child then?

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Page 89

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

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

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judges told me they will not proceed without a person, a custodian showing up.

2.4

In Houston they were telling me that 95 to 99, if I have the number correct, somebody is there with the child. I forgot the information out of Seattle.

In a very, very high majority, up into the mid to upper 90 percent of the cases someone is showing up with the child. They would communicate and interact with the person.

- Q. Do you know in what percentage of cases that person who is showing up with the child is also making substantive legal decisions in the case, like conceding removability and waiving applications for relief and things like that?
- A. In our case management system, there's nowhere that would be captured or reflected that I'm aware of that I could pull up that information or the agency could.
- Q. What if a child wants to apply for some form of relief or take a certain step and their nonattorney adult who is accompanying them doesn't want to do that, what's the department's position about what the judge should do in that situation?
 - A. You're saying the child wants to apply

that.

2.4

I know in Seattle KIND is more often than not -- I'm hesitant to say in every single juvenile case. I don't know the numbers, but very often KIND, Kids in Need of Defense, is sitting in the back of the court as a Friend of the Court.

I know in Los Angeles we have Public Counsel, CARECEN, KIND, Esperanza specifically there. There's some smaller groups that will cover Orange County if needed.

I know in Houston there's quite a few law clinics as well. And in some of these locations the court actually sends out the calendar in advance and then those groups coordinate and decide who will cover.

So another option is in many of these cases, there is a Friend of the Court present, and the general practice would be the judge would hear the cases of kids who were represented, step out of the courtroom. The Friend of the Court would make a Know Your Rights presentation in the case and then sometimes do intake or meet with the 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

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and the adult does not?

- Q. It could be the reverse, too. Just there's conflict.
- A. Our training is they should consult with the child advocate. That would be a case where the judge has the option of referring the case to a child advocate.

I have a case where there is a reason to believe that the mother's boyfriend was sexually molesting the child and that the mother was seeking voluntary departure to whisk the child away before the investigation could complete or something could happen.

In that case I received a request from the judge for a child advocate to make the voluntary departure really was in the best interest of the child. It results in strange U visa issue questions. They would have that option. They would also have the option to seek pro bono representation for Friend of the Court.

All three courts have very active Friend of the Court programs. There's a very, very high percentage of Friend of the Court actually showing up in proceedings in those locations. So that would be another option to investigate and have judge would have the option to seek out pro bono counsel as well to make sure the child's interests and the parents' are consistent.

- Q. Several things I want to ask you about that answer. How often do you get referrals for child advocate requests from immigration judges?
- A. I would say -- and this is based on your instructions to estimate if I don't know an answer.
 - Q. That's appreciated.
 - A. I would say maybe three a month.
- Q. Do you know how many child advocates there are?
 - A. I don't.
- Q. Do you know what percentage of the cases they appear in?
- A. I don't and there's nothing in our case management system also where there's a field you can enter or where that would be able to be tracked.
 - O. There isn't?
- A. There isn't. It's ORR that assigns the child advocate. So that would be...
- Q. Do you know if there's a geographic limitation on child advocates or they can appear

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anywhere around the country?

2.4

A. There's not a geographic limitation. The process is the immigration judges would refer the case to me. And generally what I do is I reach out to the Young Center as our first point. They will let me know if they have capacity or not. If not, we would go to someone else.

Right now the organizations are somewhat in flux due to changes in funding and who is getting the grants. So things will change. But largely what we do is go to the Young Center. Then we would go to USCCB and I think USCRI.

- Q. How would a child advocate help an immigration judge resolve a conflict in the way you described? I understand an advocate can make a recommendation about what's in the best interest of the child.
 - A. Um-hum.
- Q. What is the judge's obligation with respect to that recommendation?
- A. So obligation -- because the child advocate is established by the TVPRA, they're required to consider it in the court. The reason why we trained on that in one of those earlier training programs is because I was concerned that

kind of how a judge or what a judge would do.

If a child is asking for repatriation, the child advocate may do safe return studies. I've seen reports where there's actually pictures of the house and location the child going to go to. But also the legal representative is bound by the express interest of the child.

If the child says I don't want to apply for asylum, I want to go back to my palace and play with my Nintendo and I'm not afraid and I'm not going and the judge has reason to believe based on country conditions that that is not the case, the judge can request a best interest determination to see is the express interest consistent with the best interest.

Q. Let's take that example. Let's say the child persists in the determination that he or she doesn't want to apply for asylum and the child advocate's determination is that it would be dangerous to send the home.

Can the immigration judge grant asylum under those circumstances?

- A. Force the respondent to seek relief?
- Q. What would the immigration judge do in that situation?

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the judge would not understand the role of the 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. I 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 understand what the role was.

So we've had both in the most recent training, but also mandatory DVD training, video training for all judges where the Young Center presented and expressly presented the difference between representing the best interest and the legal representation so that there was no turning to the child advocate and saying, hey, you need to file an I-589 on the person.

- Q. Because the child advocate does not have authority, for example, to file application for asylum, is that what you're saying?
- A. Correct. The child advocate is not a legal representative. They are there to indicate the best interests of the child. You asked for

A. It's a good hypothetical question. I'm 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 detention facility where I though respondents did not want to seek relief and I had ways of kind of making them, taking away the incentive not to apply.

- Q. I was imagining in your hypothetical there was no counsel. And in that situation is there anything the child advocate can do beyond having stated what their opinion is about the best interest of the child?
- A. No. The child advocate really -- I think the child advocate could present information on the country conditions. I don't think -- I have not seen this and it would be unique, but I don't think there's anything that would prohibit a judge from taking an I-599 and questioning the respondent and taking evidence from the child

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advocate. But this fact pattern hasn't really come up.

2.4

The judge has an obligation to develop the record. If I really, really believed that a child was going to be persecuted and everybody on the respondent's side is saying no, I'd have to get creative and look for safeguard and protection.

Q. You also said Friend of the Court could be consulted in this situation. This is my situation where we're imagining a conflict between what the child wants and what the nonattorney adult with the child wants.

Let me step back and imagine a more typical situation where, say, the child wants to apply for relief and the adult custodian does not. The adult custodian wants to send the child back home to, say, their parents. How would a Friend of the Court be able to resolve that conflict?

A. They can speak to both of them and explain what the relief is and the benefits of the relief and the pros and cons of the relief. They can assist them in preparing the application. They can do a lot, short of -- at the point they enter an E-28, they're no longer a Friend of the Court. But they can do a lot without actually

You said one option is you go to the Friend of the Court. I'm asking what can the Friend of the Court do to resolve that situation?

- A. Well, I think what you can do is the question. In that instance where the adult wants to waive and the child does not and I wanted the child to apply, I would say the waiver is not knowing, voluntary and intelligent. Whether or not it was or not, I'm not going to let the adult waive on behalf of the child.
- Q. You're saying that as an immigration judge?
 - A. Correct.

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- Q. Wearing your immigration judge hat?
- A. As how I would exercising my independent authority as an immigration judge handle that particular situation.
- Q. But it wouldn't be contrary to any binding rule for a judge not to take that approach if they thought it was appropriate in that situation and instead to allow the nonattorney adult's decision to govern. That's also consistent with whatever their obligations are?
- A. Right. I think the law is silent on the topic.

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entering on as a representative.

- Q. Can they resolve the dispute with respect to the judge? Can they tell the judge the child does want to pursue the relief or the child doesn't want to pursue the relief if the custodian is saying one thing and the child is saying something else?
- A. So if the custodian is saying don't apply?
 - Q. Yes, and the child actually wants to.
- A. Can the Friend of the Court -- so the 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 nonattorney adult has in cases like this. Can the nonattorney adult, say, waive request for relief and requests other than voluntary departure and requests voluntary departure, for example. Like you say there's no particular guidance on the subject.

So then I was asking about situations where the nonattorney adult wants to, for example, waive any relief other than voluntary departure, but the child may actually want to stay in the United States. How do you resolve that conflict? Q. Do nonattorney adults -- can an immigration judge require the participation of a nonattorney adult?

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A. They are requiring the presence of an 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 uses the word child. I think it specifies the age, and the ages vary -- without the presence of certain people including a relative which implies, implies that the presence of that person makes a difference, but it doesn't say and fundamental fairness doesn't really speak to what that person can do or not do.

We know they can't do things if they're not present which seems to imply that their presence is some form of protection, but it doesn't really tell -- there's nothing in that regulation as drafted that says what the role is or it doesn't even define the categories listed.

So I think it's up to the interpretation the way the regs are right now to figure out whether the presence of that person really does allow you

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to do a fundamentally fair hearing. And I don't think there's anything that says it does, and I don't think there's anything that really says it doesn't.

2.4

- Q. The immigration judges that are requiring their presence, as I understand it, in some cases judges are saying that if the nonattorney adults does not come to court, they'll order the child removed in absentia. Is that your understanding?
- A. Ms. Jackson and I have been communicating about this because there was a judge in Los Angeles, and it came in the context of a stakeholder meeting, it came up where it appeared that a judge -- I'm not aware that she actually did it, but seemed to kind of threaten or imply in a number of hearings -- I asked for specific case numbers and they were provided -- that judges were saying I will waive the -- a judge would waive the presence of the child and that the adult's presence would not be waived.

I don't know whether it was that they ordered the adult to show up or just said the adult can show up, but if the adult doesn't show up, the judge in that case threatened to proceed in the law is an element and that's not the law. I mean, judges have certain authorities by statute and regulation. They are delegatees of the attorney general, and there are certain powers they have and certain rules and regulations that they must follow. And there's no basis in law for that practice. It's got to stop, and it will stop.

- Q. The reason why it's unlawful is because the immigration judge is also waiving the presence of the child; correct? Because an immigration judge could proceed in absentia in a case where 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 respondent you don't have to show up and then when the respondent doesn't show up tell him, you know, because there's -- you get notice of hearing and to say here's your notice of the time and place to show up, you don't have to be there, and then put 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

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absentia. And in the stakeholder meeting the question from counsel was is that acceptable, and my answer was absolutely not. I don't think there's anything in law or statute that regulation that allows that to occur. I told her I would follow up on it, and I have.

I don't know if this is the venue. I called the assistant chief judge for that judge, said here's the update, and had him listen to the tapes, listen to the DAR recording of the case to see what was going on.

And it looked like the practice wasn't occurring, but there was enough discussion and there was enough indication that it was being considered or that at least the blanket threat was 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 forward, and he and I are communicating, basically speak with the judge and stop the practice.

- Q. When you say stop the practice, what authority do you have to stop a judge from engaging in a practice like that?
- A. The authority we have as judges are under performance work plans where knowledge of

judge can certainly order to remove the child in absentia then?

A. If the legal requirements for in absentia are met, the judge would have the ability. It ties to that last answer. Not only is the failure of a child to show, if waived, which I don't think is proper notice, hand a paper notice and say you can ignore it, but also I think it falls under the exceptional circumstances for failure to appear, which would be an exceptional circumstance for your failure to appear is I say you don't have to show up.

So I think in that particular case the judge would have to consider the evidence, the child is not there if the adult is not there, and determine whether the notice was proper and whether the judge is aware of exceptional circumstances for explaining the child failure to appear and would not have to go -- there's nothing that requires them to proceed in absentia if they think the due process didn't require it. The judge would have the option to continue it.

Q. Are you aware of whether children sometimes fail to appear in court because there's no transport available that allows them to appear

Page 106 Page 108 1 in the court? Is that a widespread phenomenon? 1 safeguard and protection to make sure the hearing 2 2 Are you aware of that? is fair. 3 3 MR. SILVIS: Objection. Topic. BY MR. ARULANANTHAM: 4 A. I'm not aware of it, but I am aware that 4 Q. When an immigration judge is trying to 5 small children, a two year old, is not going to be 5 determine whether it's fair to proceed in a case 6 6 able to get to court. That would be an example of involving an unrepresented child, the department's 7 a case where you would have to look at it and 7 position is as in the Franco context, right, that 8 8 decide how appropriately to proceed, and we did the presence of the nonattorney adult in the 9 cover that in the training on absentia. 9 courtroom should not bear on the judge's 10 10 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM: determination as to whether or not the child has 11 11 O. You're not aware of whether that's sort the capacity to proceed in the case; is that 12 of a widespread problem right now generally? 12 right? 13 MR. SILVIS: Same objection. 13 A. The child is able to do or not do what 14 A. We don't know when somebody doesn't show 14 the child is able to do or not do, regardless of 15 15 up unless somebody has contacted the court or the fact that I'm there or a parent is there or 16 16 there's some evidence -- we don't know whether not there. So when I'm sitting with my son with 17 it's a tactical decision or transportation. 17 his homework and he's trying to do it, the fact 18 There's the ability to move to reopen the case if 18 I'm sitting next to him doesn't change whether 19 19 an explanation comes up that the court is aware he's able to do it or not. 20 of. Very often we don't know why the person did 20 My role doesn't come until he's not able to 21 not show up. 21 do it and then the question is, is there some role 22 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM: 22 I can play to achieve the objective. 23 23 Q. You're I know familiar with the Franco O. I'm still trying to understand whether 2.4 court rulings on the role of nonattorney adults 2.4 there's a proper analogy here or not. I 25 who accompany people with mental defects in 25 understand you're saying the judge has to first Page 107 Page 109 1 immigration court; right? 1 make a determination about what the child's 2 MR. SILVIS: Objection. Scope. 2 capacity is and that judgment has to be made 3 3 irrespective of whether the adult is next to the A. Yes, I am. 4 4 child or not; is that correct? BY MR. ARULANANTHAM: 5 5 Q. If those rules applied in this context, A. Right. 6 would the activities that we've been discussing --6 Q. Once you're beyond that and there's a 7 7 would some of the activities we've been discussing determination the child is not able to proceed in 8 8 representing themselves, if we work by analogy in be prohibited? 9 MR. SILVIS: Objection. Topic. 9 the Franco context, the fact that there's a 10 10 A. They're apples and oranges because the competent relative also in the room is irrelevant 11 11 Franco ruling in that regard is the presence of to the question of whether the person who is not 12 12 the person does not alter the determination as to able to represent themselves is entitled to an 13 13 whether the person is able to function. So you're attorney. If they are not, they don't meet the 14 using that to determine what the guidance is 14 definition of pro se competency, then they're 15 15 following the definition. Either you have a entitled to an attorney. 16 Is it the department view the same would be 16 mental disorder that significantly impairs your 17 cognitive, emotional or behavioral ability to 17 true with respect to children then, that if the 18 perform the adjudicative and decisional 18 child doesn't have the capacity to represent 19 19 competencies or you don't. And the fact somebody themselves, then it doesn't matter for purposes of 20 20 is sitting with you does not change the fact as to determining whether the judge should proceed, that 21 21 whether you can perform them or not. there's an adult relative sitting next to them? 22 22 Same for the child. Whether the parent is 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

because it assumed Franco and it was pretty

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sitting there doesn't impact whether the child can

perform or not perform the function. Really the

question there is what is the impact as a

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knotted, but I think I can answer it.

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What I am able to do I'm able to do regardless of whether you're sitting next to me or not. So if the child cannot perform, just like under Franco, the fact a parent is sitting with them does not change what they can do or not.

The next step of the analysis -- first you identify what functions the child or the mental incompetent respondent cannot perform. Some of those are decisional competencies that they're required to do and some are adjudicative competencies. And each one has a different standard of what defines how severe the impairment

When you figure out what the child is not able to do, which is generally they have to know these things and they have to be able to do certain things, you have to look at how impaired the ability to do those things is. The fact a parent is there doesn't change how impaired the ability to do those things is.

The next step of the analysis is to figure out given that impairment, can you conduct a fundamentally fair proceeding. The next step then is -- the answer of whether you can conduct a

vulnerable populations is to try to help create a cafeteria approach of resources that are available to immigration judges.

Your position is that a representative should be available for all cases in all those. We don't have that yet. But my role now is to have the widest range of tools and resources available to try to fill in for the gap in functioning. And a parent could play a role whether the inability to function is due to a mental disorder or due to vouth.

BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:

- Q. Let me switch gears quickly and ask you 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 look at it?
 - Q. I don't.
- A. I do. I actually have it here. Can I open it?
- Q. You're welcome to open it. I'm sure the questions I ask you you'll be able to answer without reference to the text.

What is the purpose of the rule?

A. I have personal ideas, but I don't know

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Page 111

the drafting history of the rule or the regulatory

intent that might show up, may show up in the preamble if I was to read it, but I haven't read the preamble. Q. But when you train, obviously you have

to discuss the purpose of the rule in the context of training, how judges can comply with it; right? So in that context, what would you say was the purpose?

A. I think the purpose of the rule is to prohibit an immigration judge from taking -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 under the age of 18 and is not accompanied by one of those list of individuals.

Q. Why is that rule there only for those two classes of individuals, that is individuals under the age of 18 and incompetent individuals? What's the concern? Why wouldn't that just be the rule for everyone?

A. Well, I think it is the rule for everyone, though not specified because you have other respondents who you choose not to take a

fundamentally fair hearing is based upon is there a safeguard or protection available that can compensate for the function the respondent is not able to perform.

So what I'm saying is where the parent falls in, just like it doesn't fall in the analysis up to that stage, where that person really comes in is -- and it comes in in Franco, too -- is in considering what safeguard or protection. So if you have a respondent who has a mental disorder, the presence of the parent may somehow impact the person's ability to function as a safeguard or protection. Having mom sit by or mom collect evidence or mom do something might help a respondent who could not do that on their own get a fair hearing.

I'm not saying the parent will or will not in every case, but I mean, I think it's something that goes into the mix of -- and you may need multiple safeguards and protections. You may have to cut the hearing short. You may have to lower the level and the tone. You may have to chunk tasks. You may have the presence, the family helping the respondent. There's a lot of things.

That's why I say my role as an ACIJ for

Page 114 Page 116 1 1 pleading from. But I think in this case -- in about the predicate like I was talking about and 2 2 those you have the discretion as a judge to not obtain the facts needed to sustain the allegation 3 3 take the pleading if you think there's an issue then? 4 4 regarding the respondent. But I think here it MR. SILVIS: Objection. Asked and 5 specifies. 5 answered. 6 6 Q. It's a prohibition? A. If the law of the Circuit authorizes it. 7 A. It's a prohibition. 7 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM: Q. What's the rationale for the stricter 8 8 Q. If the law of the Circuit doesn't 9 rule in this context than in others? 9 prohibit it, it hasn't read the regulation more 10 10 A. I don't know the rationale. I didn't broadly to encompass not just the admission, but 11 write it. But apparently the drafters believe 11 also the factual statements, then there's no 12 12 that the presence of the listed people somehow prohibition in your view? 13 allow you to go forward with the practice. 13 A. I'm sorry. I lost the --14 Q. Let's leave the list of people aside for 14 Q. Many of the things we've been 15 15 a minute. Assume there's no list of people. Is discussing, there's no Circuit law on the subject, 16 it the department's view there's something 16 but, nonetheless, you give guidance to immigration 17 categorically different about those two classes of 17 judges. You were just telling us a few minutes 18 people, incompetent people and people under 18 if 18 ago you were going to stop a practice in one 19 19 unrepresented -instance. 20 MR. SILVIS: Objection. Topics. 20 I'm asking you about this practice, the 21 Q. -- that requires a stricter rule in this 21 practice of the immigration judge questioning the 22 child when there is no such qualifying 22 context? 23 23 individuals, that they'd be prohibited from taking MR. SILVIS: Objection. Topic. 2.4 A. I don't think the department takes a 24 an admission of allegation, but questioning the 25 position. I think the rule is the rule, and it's 25 child about the facts needed to establish the Page 115 Page 117 1 the law. So really our position -- we can't take 1 allegations and then going ahead and making the 2 2 a position. We got to apply the law, and that's finding on that basis. 3 3 the way it's written now. My question to you is: Absent Circuit law 4 prohibiting it, is it the position of the Q. Can the immigration judge ask questions 4 5 5 of a child, since we're primarily talking about department that that's inappropriate conduct by an 6 children, of an unrepresented child who fits under 6 immigration judge? 7 7 the regulatory definition there to establish the A. We don't have a position on it 8 factual predicates that would be sufficient to 8 because -- the example -- you made analogy that's 9 sustain the allegations even without actually just 9 not accurate. The practice we're stopping is 10 10 taking the admission as a legal matter?

A. On that issue, there's Circuit case law. So the Circuit case law kind of expands on that because the exact words here are that you cannot accept an admission of removability, but the Circuits have provided further guidance regarding the issue you're asking. And I don't know all of the Circuit law.

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I don't feel real comfortable because I didn't read it. But I know that there's further guidance in each Circuit -- I shouldn't say each Circuit, but at least in multiple. I know there's guidance in the 9th regarding what are the parameters of what you can do and cannot do.

Q. Is it the position of the department that an immigration judge can question the child

A. We don't have a position on it because -- the example -- you made analogy that not accurate. The practice we're stopping is because it's an illegal practice. So here the judge has to follow what the Circuit says. And the Circuit -- I think -- I believe the Circuit gave specific guidance as to what you can do or not do.

So for me to try to make pretend that Circuit precedent that exists doesn't exist and speculate on what would happen in that world -- I can't go there. I don't know the answer. We got to follow the law. The Circuits have spoken.

- Q. Do you know if the practice I'm talking about is common or not?
- A. I think there are judges who do believe that you can ask questions to establish a factual basis. You cannot take a pleading. You cannot ask the respondent to admit or deny. You cannot

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ask a respondent to concede or contest removability. Yet judges -- I know there are judges who believe you can ask questions regarding the factual basis.

- Q. Absent Circuit authority saying contrary, you and the department would not be telling judges to stop that practice?
- A. I don't think we've taken a position one way or the other. I think that's an area of judicial interpretation as to what the law authorizes the judge to do in that specific -- I 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 Circuit -- again, I don't know the Circuit law, but I think the regulation on its face on ambiguous enough that that's why the Circuits had to step in and clarify what you could do and not do. You have to follow the Circuit law.

Q. There's a variant on this practice where the DHS trial attorney would do the questioning rather than the judge. Am I right that your position about that would be the same as well, that is unless there's Circuit authority barring it, you would not instruct the judges to stop is something right now I could pin without researching the law.

BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:

- Q. As it stands now, you don't instruct or provide guidance on that subject?

 MR. SILVIS: Objection.
- A. It hasn't come to my attention. I would have to think about it, but I don't love the practice. And if in a state court or meeting we got a statement about that was occurring, I would look into it. If illegal, we would shut it down. If it falls within the realm of judicial independence, we would probably have to leave it to work its way through.

BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:

- Q. Does the immigration judge have the authority to take a concession if there is an adult nonlawyer who is accompanying the child to court?
 - A. Concession of removability?
 - Q. Yeah.

A. It has to be that the factual allegations support the charge. Are we assuming that the adult admitted all the allegations and conceded?

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that practice?

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MR. SILVIS: Objection. Topic.

A. I was not aware of that practice. I'd 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 should be doing.

BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:

Q. If you don't prohibit the immigration judges from doing it themselves as a best practice or you don't say the best practice is not to do that, why would it be different for the DHS attorney to do it?

MR. SILVIS: Same objection.

A. Because, I mean, that's the legal issue. The legal issue is whether a government attorney who takes factual statements from a respondent renders the proceeding fundamentally unfair. I'd have to research. I don't know if there would be a difference. It makes me more uncomfortable admittedly, but I don't have a legal basis or

Q. Yes.

A. That poses a similar question as far as 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 protection.

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

Page 122 Page 124 1 We might present the various options, suggested 1 in, those types of things, were either of the 2 2 best practices, raise the issue. But I think child's parents citizens or nationals, rather than 3 3 just make a statement regarding whether the child where there's ambiguity or at least room for 4 4 judicial interpretation, I would be reticent to had been admitted or whether the waving of the 5 child through in the back seat of a car 5 step in and order somebody to do it one way or the 6 6 substitutes a legal inspection. other. 7 So I think you'd have to do a separate 7 (Exhibit 14 was marked.) 8 analysis on the safeguard and protection for one 8 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM: 9 versus the other because its different 9 Q. Let me introduce Exhibit 14, EOIR229. 10 10 functionality is required. This is an email from Sabina Boone-Fisher to all 11 11 Q. I take that answer to be how you would judges on March 24, 2015, and the attachment is 12 12 approach it if you were adjudicating such a case, Docketing Practices Memorandum. Do you see that 13 13 but you haven't trained on this question and the document? 14 department does not have a position on this 14 A. I do. 15 15 question generally, the question of what adult O. Underneath it there's a memo from Brian 16 16 nonlawvers --O'Leary. That's the next page. Are you familiar 17 A. The department's official position on 17 with this document? 18 18 this question would be to follow the law. And A. I am. 19 19 then if there's room for judicial interpretation, O. What was the occasion that led to the 20 interpret it consistently with due process and 20 sending out of this memo? 21 21 fundamental fairness. A. There was an increase in families and 22 22 children entering the United States, and the Q. Is there any separate constraint --23 23 Administration determined that our resources in still on the subject of 1240.10 -- is there any 2.4 separate constraint on the judge's authority to 24 the courts should be reallocated to address these 25 take factual statements from a child based on the 25 cases over our nondetained dockets. Page 123 Page 125 1 child's capacity? 1 Q. This memo also speaks to continuance 2 2 MR. SILVIS: Objection. Topic. practices. 3 3 A. I'm not aware of any statutory or A. Right. 4 regulatory prohibitions. Going back to what we 4 Q. Was there a reason why that in 5 5 particular was addressed in this memo? It's II on said, that doesn't mean that a judge is not able 6 to if they believe fundamental fairness is not... 6 page 2. Sorry. It's page 1 of the memo. 7 7 A. The idea is to get the case on the BY MR. ARULANANTHAM: 8 Q. Do you know if there's case law on that 8 docket for first hearing quickly. It did not 9 subject? 9 speak to what happened really after that. So the 10 10 A. Not that I'm aware of. purpose of this was to let the judges know that we 11 11 Q. So you wouldn't train on that as a want you to hold an initial hearing quickly, but 12 12 distinct issue, the issue of the ability to make that beyond that, it's your discretion applying 13 appropriate legal standards of good cause as to 13 the factual statement rather than the legal 14 admission; you wouldn't train separately on that? 14 how to proceed thereafter. 15 15 A. I wouldn't say we wouldn't train it. Q. Prior to the memo being issued, was What I would do is we would present the range of 16 16 there any information that you were receiving that 17 options. 17 immigration judges were not complying with the 18 So, for example, I'm one of the editors of 18 good cause standard with respect to granting 19 19 the Immigration Law Adviser. What we will do is continuances? 20 20 we will present this is the issue and this is what MR. SILVIS: Objection. Topic. 21 the Circuit is and this is what this Circuit is 21 A. Did you say were there any? 22 22 and present all the positions. We don't give BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:

Q. Did you get information that judges were

not complying with the good cause standard in

granting continuances prior to the issuance of

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decision.

legal advice. They're free to make their

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

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1 this memo?

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A. I think there was concern expressed that people felt that the length of continuances may have shortened, not the number of continuances, but the lengths of continuances. And so we wanted to make it really clear.

And it went one step beyond that in that I remember specifically in an assistant chief judge meeting the chief judge said -- and that ties kind of to that illegal -- that use of any type of case completion goal as a rationale for denial of a continuance would fall below the performance expected in the judge's rating and may be used as a basis of finding the judge is not performing.

That's one of those areas of law. So this was made to say nothing in this desire to get -- to reallocate resources and nothing in the desire to get you a fast first hearing should in any way impact how you proceed after that, and the side corollary that doesn't show is if we find out that you're using it as a basis and you articulate as a basis, you're in trouble, big trouble, big trouble. So it's in a way training.

Q. Were there judges that had been using case completion goals as a justification for

BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:

Q. We were speaking off the record, and I wanted to clarify that the conversation we were having was primarily focused on the memo as it was first issued in September 10, 2014. It was reissued in March of 2015, but the timeframe we were discussing was really the time period before September 2014. Is that fair, Judge Weil?

MR. SILVIS: His answer was geared towards that first date.

A. I think the language that we've been discussing, I don't think that part has been changed. So I think my answer would be the same with regard to either one of those documents with respect to the language.

BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:

- Q. It says you should address concerns about this document to the assist chief immigration judge. I wanted to understand is there a geographical division about that, or would 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 cities, Seattle, LA, Houston and Miami, can you

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providing very short continuances or denying continuances on unaccompanied children cases before this memo went out?

A. I'm not aware of that. The one that 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 Circuit court judge in a decision relating to continuances, and I don't recall the name, pointed it out. And we're like, no, no.

Case completion goals are goals. And most case completion goals are not a hundred percent. There's a margin of error understanding that the fundamental fairness -- there's no expectation -- no judge has ever been told that you must meet this objectives in every single case. It's a way to reinforce and again communicate, stop and provide guidance.

Whether it's on rumor as in the example we discussed where somebody brings it your attention or whether you know it's happening, even the rumor is enough that we're going to step in and take an action to stop it.

(There was a discussion off the record.)

tell me who the judges are?

- A. The assistant chief judge?
- Q. Yeah.

A. For Seattle, the permanent one, because we have an acting, is Print Maggard because he is the acting chief judge, but when that is over, he will go back. So as of right now, the acting assistant judge covering Seattle is Stephen Griswold.

Q. LA?

- A. Is Thomas Fong.
- O. Houston?
- A. Houston is D.E. Nadkarni.
- O. And Miami?
- A. Miami is a Lisa Sukkar.
 - Q. Give me Bloomington, Minnesota.
- A. I think -- that one I'm not sure -- it is with Jill Dufresne. And they're going to realign again. We're going to do that soon.
- Q. This memo also says in Section IV that judges have no authority to assure custodians who want to come to court with children that they will not get arrested by ICE when they come to court.
 - A. Um-hum.
 - Q. That's still the EOIR policy I take it?

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A. That is EOIR policy.

2.4

- Q. Can the immigration judge require the custodian's presence in immigration court?
- A. They are and nobody is stopping them 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 consistent with the conduct of proceeding.

But basically what you have is the judge's TVPAR obligations to identify victims of trafficking. The judge is worried about child abuse. The kids that were showing up with suitcases with no adults, the kids that were showing up with signs of abuse, the judges to ensure the safety of the children were ordering people to show up. And, of course, many people did not want to show up, parents, custodians, aunts or uncles, because they were undocumented.

So the judges were making representations, and we don't have the authority to tell DHS who they can or cannot put into proceedings.

I'm not aware -- we do have policies on where and when DHS can arrest people in our space, but I

these in Los Angeles is sufficiently short and regular that the judge knows if I continue the case to this date, they're getting a response back. And so continuance is appropriate. And then nobody has to file a motion to recalendar, and it saves resources, and the judge can track what's going on.

In Texas the state courts will not accept jurisdiction. Well, that's an SIJ case. But it relates because the amount of time may not be as regular.

- Q. I understand.
- A. So the judges are administratively closing. Then the parties come back, and an answer is provided.
- Q. And the particular mechanism of how the judge should give the give USCIS the opportunity to exercise its jurisdiction is left to individual judges?
- A. Right. How they choose to stop while USCIS exercises their jurisdiction changes as does the level of oversight to make sure that it's been filed and that it's pending. Some judges may want to pull in a status conference. Others will just set it out.

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- think it was a promise that we didn't really have the ability to take action on. And while it was a noble attempt to protect the children and see who they were really living with, we had to put a stop to it because it's an authority we don't have.
- Q. Let's switch to topic ten, which is what I'll call the asylum initial jurisdiction rule. Can you explain the rule?
- A. Yeah. Initial jurisdiction over asylum applications for unaccompanied children lies with USCIS.
- Q. What does an immigration judge have to do to comply with that rule?
- A. The immigration judge -- if the immigration judge -- if initial jurisdiction lies with USCIS, they have to give USCIS an opportunity to adjudicate the application. It is one of the topics I specifically addressed with the judges. And their practices vary. For example, in Los Angeles, they're continuing the case to allow that to occur.

In Texas they are administratively closing the case to allow that to occur. And the reason, to the extent you're interested in that, is because the timeframe that USCIS is adjudicating

- 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?
- 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,

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hey, this is our interpretation of our jurisdiction and what we're going to accept and our reading and ICE saying, and this is what we're not going to oppose because this is our reading.

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The problem was complicated. You have some Circuits, the Fifth Circuit in I think at least two at least unpublished decisions has drawn an interpretation of who is unaccompanied that is not necessarily consistent with our guidance or what USCIS is willing to take, and that's created a problem as to whether USCIS has jurisdiction or

- Q. I take it the problem you're referring to is whether a child has been reunited with one or both parents can still be properly classified as unaccompanied?
- A. Yes. That's one of the factors. There can be age out factors. Our guidance is this is not a dispute -- if the parties are not in dispute and the NTA is marked, then please let the child have their opportunity. If it's granted, the case goes away and we were effective because we're not using docket times to adjudicate matters not in dispute. And if it comes back, it comes back. But you have Circuit law that seems to narrow...

Q. And you are aware that there are immigration judges who are proceeding in cases even where under the department's view of the statute jurisdiction should lie in the asylum?

A. I'm aware there were some. I'm aware some have changed their practices after the April training. I looked specifically into the three locations, but I do think there are people that believe that USCIS does not have jurisdiction in some of these cases. I don't know how many.

We seemed to shift away from it, but I can't specifically state that there's not somebody out there that's still doing it. I think on that one, I'm pushing the envelope, but I've stopped short.

Q. You're a good man.

A. Is that a finding of fact? (Exhibit 15 was marked.)

BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:

O. Let me hand you what we'll mark as 15. This does not have a Bates number even though it came in discovery. It is a Memorandum to the Asylum Office Staff from Ted Kim, acting chief of the asylum division. It's stamped May 28, 2013.

Are you familiar with this document?

A. I'm not. I have heard of a USCIS memo

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- Q. In a jurisdiction where there is conflicting Circuit law as you describe, then you would not then be disciplining or otherwise instructing judges to ignore that law and instead utilize a definition that would otherwise be employed; is that right?
- A. What I'm telling them is our policy is adjudicate matters in dispute. I'm not telling them violate the law of the Circuit. If you believe that's your Circuit's law -- I can't tell a judge to violate the Circuit law, and I'm not going to tell them as a matter of law.

But our general policy, and I think it's in some of the documents that I reviewed today, is if it's a matter that you don't have jurisdiction over, initial jurisdiction, which I guess that's part of the legal question, and if it's not in dispute, we don't really need to be spending our docket time on it. So I kind of stated a view in a training, but I haven't said -- I'm not going to tell a judge and then have a Circuit Court judge, you know, no, they're not published, so there's some leeway. I'm not going to go out there and look like I issued a rule that violates Circuit law.

that interprets their jurisdiction. I don't know that this is the one or there may be subsequent ones that overrule or change this one.

Q. I'll represent to you that this memo refers to a change in the classification determination process for unaccompanied children.

Are you aware of there having been a change in the classification determination process that led to the rule you described earlier where the immigration court is to treat the prior agency's designation as dispositive?

MR. SILVIS: I'll object to topic.

A. I'm aware there's a dispute. I don't remember whether it was with USCIS internally, and I don't know that this is the latest version, the earlier version. But that's exactly why we had USCIS come in person to our training to give their current version. And I don't think since April 23 when the training occurred that it changed.

So I think they've heard it from the horse's mouth as to what we will accept jurisdiction over. I know there was conflict, but I'm not aware of the particular memos and the intricacies. BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:

Q. You may not know the answer to this, but

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I'll ask you anyway. Do you know what led to the change in the classification determination process that kind of gave rise to the dispute that you were talking about in the first place?

MR. SILVIS: Objection. Topic.

A. I don't. I assume you mean why USCIS... BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:

Q. Right.

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A. I don't know. I don't. My understanding is that the interpretation was a broader interpretation, and that's what we 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 for -- strike that.

I have another set of questions I want to ask you actually. We talked about Friend of the Court and you had referred to that earlier.

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 another one that's not -- there is a memo, I know it was produced, with guidance regarding Friend of

somebody to speak as Friend of the Court, and then there's some much more formal programs as well.

- Q. The formal programs, I take it then by your answer, do not exist in every location where there's a juvenile docket; is that correct?
- A. I don't know the answer. I don't know where there are and where there's not. I didn't prepare on that. But I do know there are in the three cities that I did ask. And they all have pretty formal Friend of the Court programs. But beyond that, I don't know for other locations.
- Q. Do you know if even in those cities they are present in all the cases involving unrepresented children?

A. The number is very, very high in those locations. There's coordination among them, but I can't say for sure that every single case does. They take certain days. So it's possible they may not be there for one hearing where you're continued for an attorney, but they might be there the next time.

What's happening is these cases and with the number of continuances, people are showing up multiple, multiple times. I'm sure that information you've seen. The cases are not

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the Court. But in a way, you have Friend of the Court and you have Friend of the Court.

What I mean by that is there are some formal programs where we're sending notices and there's organizations, and that's really their -- they make their living acting as Friend of the Court. But there also could be a law student that steps in.

So there's really a range of people, and I think it's open for interpretation, as we talked about earlier, as to whether a family member could somehow serve as a Friend of the Court. I mean, it's a very broad line of functions that that person can perform, and it's not really defined 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 litem. We see an aunt or somebody that comes up that says, may I speak to you as a Friend of the Court.

We saw that very, very frequently with regard to updates on reunification efforts of ORR and where the child and ultimately the immigration case was going to end. So there probably is -- there's the ability in every court to allow

proceeding quickly through the system. So it's very possible that one time there is, one time there is not.

Q. How do you know the number is very high?

A. The judges told me that KIND is virtually there on almost every juvenile -- and I say almost because I don't want to represent every one. Maybe it is every one. But KIND is there on the juvenile docket day in Seattle almost all the time.

They explained to me, again, the same for -- California is actually the one that's sending the dockets, and they have, I think, five clinical programs as well as the regular Friends of the Courts. I think it's Catholic Charities. I can't remember the specific names in Texas.

- Q. But your understanding that it's a high number of the cases, that comes from the judges having told you that it's a high number of cases?
- A. The judges presiding over the UAC cases are saying to me they're appearing. This is our practice, this is who it is, and this is how often they're showing up. But they did fall short of saying in every single case.
 - Q. You said there were a variety of people

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who can serve in this function. So the department's position is that any adult who is accompanying a child can be asked by the judge to serve in a Friend of the Court role?

A. Right. It's very similar to what we did in the mental competency cases where we said pretty much anybody can be indicia that there might be an issue. So we laxed the rules.

So you may have somebody come and speak up, and I'm not sure in every case the judge is going to dub them and say I now appoint you Friend of the Court. There's no entry of appearance for them that's in there.

But I think the option to have one is there, but the function is going to vary greatly in what 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.

For example, KIND is one of the Friends of the Court. That's really what they're doing. They're trying to screen the cases and refer the cases to pro bono representation if it's available.

It can be very, very informal to the point it's not even formally stated on the record to a

the way it generally works -- they vary -- they'll give the I-589 application and then provide the child -- as I say, in a very high percentage of these cases in the cities I spoke to, there is an adult present -- if not, then everyone isn't requiring it -- whether legally or illegally. And then DHS provides the instructions for filing the I-589.

The judges, some of them, what they're doing is tracking to make sure that it's been received. They'll have them come back in. As I say, in the beginning they were admin closing. We're starting to see less admin closures, and the judges are asking for receipt or some proof that the application has actually been filed. I think one asked for the green return receipt, but that's not everybody.

If they're not admin closing and they're 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 different degrees to what extent they're babysitting that filing.

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very formal process.

2.4

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:

Q. I want to go back briefly to what you were telling me earlier about the asylum initial jurisdiction issue. I asked you what is the immigration judge's obligation, and I thought I understood you to say they have an obligation to inform the child of this sort of option for relief; is that right.

A. In all cases, the Circuit courts have held that an immigration judge must do a reasonable relief inquiry and then advise the respondent of the right to apply for relief. If they fail to do so, the Circuits have found it reversible error.

In the asylum context, it's pretty simple.
You ask, are you afraid to go home? Do you have a fear? If the answer is yes, and it can be interpreted very broadly whether it's an adult or child, at that point, that's when the judge would look and say, is this UAC? Who has jurisdiction?
My understanding from speaking to the judges

BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:

Q. Let's say it has gone on for a while and there isn't any proof of filing with the asylum office. What can an immigration judge do then?

A. I talked to the judge about that, and there's basically kind of three options. One, they come in and they have a receipt that it's been filed. Two, they have the application, but they don't have the receipt and they indicated they would set it for another master calendar. And, three, they have nothing.

At that point I think you have to give the application and talk to them and find out why they haven't done it. It varies.

- Q. Eventually does the judge have authority to go ahead and proceed and decide the asylum case in the removal hearing?
- A. Yes. The person -- there were some cases where even with representation -- I have trouble figuring out what the rationale was -- but 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 judge has given some amount of time and there has

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still been no adjudication by USCIS and perhaps no filing with USCIS.

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Does the judge also have the authority to decide the case, the asylum issue in the removal hearing at that point?

A. I think they have authority to make a decision. Whether they proceed and begin to say, okay, it's not with USCIS and begin to proceed in an asylum claim, whether they deem it waived or abandoned, I think that's going to vary from fact to fact, and that's going to be up to the particular judge and who is present.

Again, the idea is that you have -- at that point you're hoping they've had LOP, LOPC, Know 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 toolbox and what you're going to do based on the particular case and figure it out.

- Q. There are some parts of the country and some individuals, some children in all parts of the country where none of those options functionally are available; right?
 - A. You mean where there's no --
 - Q. There's no Friend of the Court, there's

need some help and see if --

- Q. What do you mean when you say "we need some help"? What does help refer to there?
- A. Some assistance for the respondent. I have an asylum claim. Is there somebody that can help fill out the application or represent the respondent? What they would do is generally reach out to the LOPC contractors to see if they can do anything, reach out to some of the Friends of the Court to see if they can, or their independent network and resources to see if there's somebody that can step in.
- Q. Do you know if OLAP -- I'm asking 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 referred and said this is an appropriate case for referral.
- Q. But you're not saying for every child who is unrepresented in immigration proceedings that one of the representation options or nonrepresentational options that you've described is available; you're not saying that it's universal and that's true for every child, are

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no LOPC, there's no pro bono representation. In this particular case that exists; correct?

A. I mean, I can't say for sure because I didn't check. And in that case, I think -- in other words, I don't know who has -- well, I know there's a limited number of sites for LOPC. I think the number is around 13, 14, but I could be wrong. And I also know there's a hotline.

Where there's Friend of the Court, formal, informal, I can't tell you every single tool 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 some assistance.

Q. Who would?

A. The immigration judge. Because they do have a legal service list, and if that reaches a dead end -- we talked about the fact the child advocate is not performing that role. I don't know that that's something you would pull out of the toolbox at that point.

But where they feel there's a really compelling case, either the judge would have the ability to call the Office of Legal Access Programs and say, hey, look, I have this case, we you?

A. That every single case is going to get a legal representative or Friend of the Court?

Q. Or LOPC representation even.

A. I don't know which -- I think the best way I can say it is I don't know what's in each court's toolbox. I can't say today that every toolbox is full, and I can't say that there's somebody who has a toolbox empty. I just don't know the answer.

Part of what we're doing is we're trying to encourage and work to make the toolbox as full as possible, to give the judges the most resources available when assessing what safeguard and protection is necessary.

Q. So assume then that you do have a situation of a child who, say, is given a I-589, but doesn't have access to any kind of either representational or nonrepresentational assistance and is told by the immigration judge to go to the asylum office. What if a child doesn't speak English, what should the child do in that instance? What is the obligation of the immigration judge in that instance?

MR. SILVIS: Objection. Topic.

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A. You're saying unaccompanied, 1 2 unrepresented. 3

BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:

- Q. Doesn't speak English.
- A. Doesn't speak English.
- Q. No LOPC.

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A. No LOPC. The judge is going to have to dig deep in their toolbox. There are sometimes we have a couple of tools at headquarters as an ACIJ for vulnerable populations or the Office of legal Access Programs. Sometimes we have networks and know people and may be able to find a tool that they don't have. But, no, I'm not saying -- I can't promise.

We can do the best -- and I think that would be an appropriate case where the judge would say, I can't find an appropriate safeguard or protection. Stop the case. I'm going to articulate everything, either the lack of tools or why the tools I have are insufficient and all my efforts and I cannot conduct a fundamentally fair hearing and they should stop.

- Q. Are you aware of cases where judges have done that?
 - A. I'm not aware one way or the other. I

tracking whether judges have closed cases on the basis that you're talking about?

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

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know what the training is, but I haven't asked the judges, have you done that. That's what we've told them to do. But also I'm not getting from the judges that I spoke to really empty toolboxes. Everybody seems to have some tools available.

Ultimately, I think it also falls -- there's a lot of -- it falls a lot on the judge. It makes -- we talked about the fact that these tools help me be more effective and more efficient.

But it could happen. You could admin close. The instruction we give is if you cannot conduct a fundamentally fair hearing, you may not proceed. You have to decide are you going to continue? Are you going to admin close? Are you going to terminate? That's their remedy available.

And it works both ways, because on the one hand, you don't get to the stage that you can order somebody removed, but also you don't get to the stage where you can grant relief necessarily. You can't proceed.

If there's no safeguard or protection and the person cannot perform the functions required for a fundamentally fair hearing, you have to stop proceedings and instructions.

Q. Are you aware of whether EOIR is

Q. What are they?

A. Really I think, and this is what we teach the judges, there's an infinite set of safeguards and protections, and you have to be -you really have to consider the individual person and their functions. Sometimes it requires you to be creative because, as I said, sometimes the inability to perform -- I'm sorry -- the inability 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 relief available.

So you really, I think, need to look -- there are many things. For example, if a child has ADD, vou're going to alter the proceeding. You're going to do small chunks. You're going to give specific tasks. The way you speak to a child, whether -- it's very common. We talked about the placement.

I've seen the judges many times will start off the proceedings by chatting about is the child still in school, are they playing soccer, how did they do in their last game. As one of the judges says. I'm a grandma. So I talk to them like a grandma. They're careful to be friendly, to try

Page 154 Page 156 1 1 to not use really legal terms. A. I don't know. 2 2 Q. Do you know where it exists? Q. Is there any evidence that the set of 3 behaviors you're talking about has an effect on 3 A. I don't know if I have copy. I don't 4 4 think I have a copy. I think I lent it to the outcome? 5 A. I mean, there's nobody that's done a 5 somebody. 6 6 study. As I said, every case is different. So Q. Do you know if it exists -- like what 7 7 there's no one set of behaviors. It's not rubber cities it exists in, like where it operates? 8 8 stamping that goes in every case. I may repeat A. No, I don't. And I'm just using it as 9 9 things over and over, my explanations. an example of something that -- you could do a 10 10 Having done a docket for over 15 years with a resource, self-help materials, like different 11 11 different population, you're constantly changing programs. We're working to try to develop some 12 12 and tailoring and monitoring and watching and self-help materials. I'm not personally working 13 13 asking questions and asking to explain back. So on that. 14 there's really --14 You have to be creative. And where things 15 15 Q. Did you do a children's docket? don't exist, you have to try to create or work 16 with state courts, work with others. 16 A. I did not, no. I did a detained adult 17 male docket. The point being is that we really 17 Q. The self-help materials you're talking 18 18 have kind of endless ways that we tweak things, we about, those are in development or they're already 19 19 change things. I've had respondents where I give implemented or operational? 20 20 them the I-589 and ask them to fill out as much as A. I don't have that information myself. I 21 21 they can knowing that there's no one to help them; think that would probably be closer to Steve Lang. 22 22 again detained. Q. Are you aware of any other programmatic 23 23 safeguards or initiatives? I guess arguably a child could have another 2.4 child help them in the shelter, but give me 2.4 A. Yeah. I think this is not one that is 25 25 something on the application so I can move necessarily EOIR, but when you say programmatic, I Page 155 Page 157 1 forward, just something so I can mark it as an 1 have sat in the shelters and listened to the 2 2 exhibit, and then I'll ask the questions. children's Know Your Rights presentations. 3 You have to be creative. You have to look 3 watching children dial on a Playskool phone the 4 for safeguards and protections. Some are very 4 immigration court asking to speak to someone in 5 formal. Some are available. 5 English and explain that they changed their 6 Q. Are there any other safeguards or 6 address. 7 7 I've watched them work with children in protections that are programmatic that have a 8 8 shelters to fill out change of addresses and name? 9 A. Yeah. We work with the ABA to do a kind 9 change of venues. 10 10 of Know Your Rights for children. Q. You're talking about shelter specific to 11 11 O. Does that still exist? Know Your Rights? 12 12 A. Yeah. A. Yeah, in the shelter, so that before 13 13 O. And where? they get to the court, they know what to expect in 14 A. I'm sorry. It's not the -- the ABA was, 14 court. I think it's a continuum. We have to I believe, for adults. There's a Know Your Rights 15 15 provide as much information available so that we 16 16 Introduction to Immigration court video. There's know it's not lack of knowledge. And then the 17 self-help materials. 17 question is, what are they able to do with the 18 Q. Know Your Rights for children, that 18 knowledge and are there things, steps. 19 19 I can't come up with every single one. But still exists? 20 20 A. Yeah, it does. EOIR did not develop it. every single proceeding I'm going to adapt based 21 I think we had input into it. 21 upon my interaction and what I'm working with and 22 22 Q. Who developed it? looking for what are the shortfalls and what tools 23 23 A. I can picture the face of it. I don't I have. I'm sure I'm going to leave off something 24 24 know. that's available, but I'm trying to be as

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inclusive as possible.

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Q. Is it ORR?

Page 158 Page 160 1 Q. The shelter specific programs, do you 1 MR. SILVIS: Objection. Topic. 2 know if those exist in all the shelters? 2 A. As I said, you have to look at each 3 3 A. I've observed some of them in south individual case and assess each individual case to 4 4 Texas. But I don't know. That's not -- it's not make a determination. 5 our contract. I know many of them call them 5 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM: б 6 Q. Can you imagine cases where that would Charla. 7 7 be true? Q. Is this an EOIR program you're talking 8 8 about? A. I can imagine a lot of things. I'm 9 A. I assume it is. I forgot who 9 going back to what I said. You have to look at 10 10 specifically was doing that. But I was really each individual case, and you have to assess the 11 11 ability of the child to function, and you have to impressed. 12 12 Q. Do you know about outcome data as to look and make the determination in the case. 13 this, the shelter programs? 13 Q. Can you imagine a case where there isn't 14 A. I don't know the location. I don't know 14 an attorney and the case is very complex, the 15 15 who is doing it. I just know I've observed it and child is very young and capacity is very limited 16 it helps to educate the respondents so when they 16 where there's no safeguard, short of 17 come to court, they have some knowledge. And then 17 representation, that would allow the child to get 18 if they do get explanations from a judge, it 18 a fair hearing beside obviously stopping the case? builds on itself. It all helps. 19 19 A. I don't know. 20 Q. I realize you may forget things, human 20 O. You don't know? 21 nature. Is there anything else you can think of 21 A. You're asking me to speculate about a 22 22 at the moment, another program that's a safeguard fact pattern that -- I've already told you that a 23 geared toward protecting the interests of children 23 large majority, almost -- a large majority have an 2.4 in immigration court? 2.4 adult present. I've told you about all the 25 A. Other than what's in the documents we've 25 resources we have. I don't know whether -- in Page 159 Page 161 already talked about, nothing is coming right now 1 those cases, in every case, an immigration judge 1 2 2 to me. Well, did we talk about the hotline? can slow down and spend a lot of time and continue 3 3 There's a hotline. There's an LOPC hotline that the case. 4 people can call into. So if your location doesn't 4 I've told you I have trained three year olds 5 5 have an LOP presentation, you can call in and they and four year olds in immigration law. You can do 6 can do that by telephone. 6 a fair hearing. It's going to take you a lot of 7 7 O. How do people learn about that? time. But I really think that a great alternative 8 8 A. The immigration judges will -- some to terminating a case for a child who may be 9 places they have it. Some people miss it. It's 9 eligible for relief where there's no counsel is 10 10 based on location. proceed very slowly, very carefully, and I'm going 11 11 Q. So the immigration judges -to tap every single resource I can to see if I can 12 12 A. Would advise of the availability. get the some help. 13 13 O. Are you aware of immigration judges O. By help you mean counsel? 14 advising people about that LOPC hotline in parts 14 A. All of the tools that I mentioned, 15 15 of the country where there is no LOPC in that anybody to show up that can assist, whether it be 16 16 a Friend of the Court, whether it be a family court? 17 A. I've heard from Steve it happens. I'm 17 member, whether it be somebody from a church, 18 not personally aware. There was something else. 18 anybody that was willing to step in, I'm going to 19 There's something else I just lost that one of the 19 do that if I can. 20 judges told me they had available. 20 I told you I think counsel allows me to be 21 Q. I'll ask you another question. Are 21 effective. They allow me to be efficient, but I 22 22 there any cases involving children where the only can trudge on. It's going to take me a lot of 23 23 way to ensure that the child gets a fair hearing hearing time, but you can do it. You can do it. 24 24 is either to stop the proceeding or provide O. Do you think you can have a fair hearing

with an unrepresented four year old in an

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counsel?

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application for asylum?

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MR. SILVIS: Objection. Topic.

A. It will take me a long, long, long, long time because I'm going to have to use every skill and every technique and every bit of training.

Again, we're assuming my toolbox is empty. But it will be hours and hours and days and days and continuances, but I can get to make a finding of fact that is not clearly erroneous. I can make a conclusions of law in the case and then make a determination as to the case.

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 very difficult respondents, whether it's due to a mental disorder, an uncooperative person, a child. Good attorneys and good judges are used to working with difficult respondents.

BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:

Q. So what if a child's only relief is 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 give that child a fair hearing?

What we found is that many times, there's so many people trying to assist on the state court side that one of the biggest problems was coordinating all the resources and making sure that all of these attorneys and firms are -- who's going to train and who's going to manage the cases and all those things.

Q. If there is no legal representation --MR. SILVIS: Are you finished? I think you were still answering.

BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:

- Q. If there is no legal representation on the state court side, how would the child obtain the predicate order?
- A. There will be legal representation. That's not an issue for us. We can --
- Q. You're saying -MR. SILVIS: You got to the let him finish.

BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:

Q. I'm sorry.

A. All I would need to do in that case, for the most part -- and I haven't done it because it hasn't been relevant -- is if we reached out to Kids in Need of Defense and their extensive

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MR. SILVIS: Objection.

A. That is not a problem. As a matter of fact, I had a meeting in Atlanta with stakeholders where the problem is there's such an abundance of resources and so many large firms -- this has become a cause celeb, as one of the judges called it, with kids. So many big firms -- this is a big issue.

A lot of people have taken a lot of time and effort. I have worked personally and been on the stage at the ABA because the ABA has taken the situation of children on as a humanitarian cause. That reminds me. Make a note. I remembered the thing I forgot earlier.

BY MR. ARULANANTHAM:

- Q. When you say cause, you mean the cause of trying to find legal representation for children to pursue SIJ applications? Is that what you're talking about?
- A. We talked about pro bono and immigration 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 competent in the other. So sometimes you have both working together.

network and firms and large firms who have offered to help, I don't think that it's going to be an issue to get the state predicate order.

Q. So your testimony is there are no children who are unable get special immigrant juvenile status due to the absence of representation to take their cases in state court?

MR. SILVIS: Objection. Topic.

A. That was not my testimony. As you said, there are not. What I'm telling you is if it 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 resources in our toolbox to be available to get somebody to go into the state court.

Keep in mind when you're talking about going into state court, the state courts are not adjudicating this for the purpose of making findings of fact and conclusions of law for immigration purposes. They're adjudicating this because somebody is saying that the child is abandoned, neglected or abused.

So usually on the social side, there is somebody that is involved in the case of that child. I'm confident if it comes to the attention

Page 166 Page 168 1 1 of the judge, that we have ample tools and read and sign? 2 2 resources to get that through the state court MR. SILVIS: Yes. 3 3 process. (Whereupon, at 4:51 p.m., the taking of 4 4 BY MR. ARULANANTHAM: the instant deposition ceased.) 5 Q. By leveraging pro bono resources? 5 6 6 A. By leveraging if that's needed. I mean, 7 the question is what is needed. What do you need 7 8 to do to get the case through the state, resources 8 9 in general to get the petition in front of the 9 10 10 state court. 11 Q. You had forgotten something. Then you 11 12 remembered it. 12 13 A. This is somewhat minor, but there was a 13 14 point, and that was that one thing we do also 14 15 is -- you were asking about other safeguards and 15 16 protections. 16 17 One thing we do, we're pretty active in 17 18 conducting mock hearings to train parties, to 18 19 train Friends of the Court, to train pro bono 19 20 representatives, and also allowing our court space 20 21 to be used for that. 21 22 22 Another thing is that if individuals have 23 23 particular handouts or things they want or things 24 24 to be posted or to use our pro bono room, many 25 times, for example, they will want to screen 25 Page 167 Page 169 1 people at the end of the hearings and do intake. 1 CERTIFICATE 2 2 And we will allow our space and our courts to be DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: 3 3 used to do that, and the judges will step off the 4 bench. That's something else to provide -- to 4 I, Ann Medis, Registered Professional 5 5 enhance, not only just to identify the resource, Reporter and Notary Public, hereby certify the 6 but what can we do to encourage or enhance or do б witness, HONORABLE JACK H. WEIL, was by me first 7 7 duly sworn to testify to the truth, that the that. 8 8 foregoing deposition was taken at the time and The other thing is by scheduling the juvenile 9 9 dockets, because the whole purpose of that is to place stated herein, and that the said deposition 10 10 conserve resources, to not be pulling the child was recorded stenographically by me and then 11 11 out of school, to allow the Friends of the Court reduced to printing under my direction, and 12 constitutes a true record of the testimony given 12 to show up on a specific day and not have all off 13 13 the resources we do have spending their time on by said witness. 14 the road rather than in court or preparing cases. 14 I certify the inspection, reading and signing 15 15 of said deposition were NOT waived by counsel for So those are both things that we have that I 16 the respective parties and by the witness. 16 can recall, but also ways that we take to try to 17 enhance the effectiveness of our resources. 17 I certify I am not a relative or employee of 18 (There was a discussion off the record.) 18 any of the parties, or a relative or employee of 19 19 either counsel, and I am in no way interested MR. ARULANANTHAM: We will pass the 20 20 directly or indirectly in this action. witness. 21 21 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my MR. SILVIS: We don't have any 22 hand and affixed my seal of office this 29th day 22 questions. 23 23 MR. ARULANANTHAM: I think we're done of October, 2015. 24 24 then. 25 Same stipulation that you'll have 30 days to 25

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day of, 2015.	
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except for the corrections or changes in form or	
bacominee, if any, noted in the attached citata sheet.	
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