

March 11, 2014

Mr. Juan P. Osuna, Director  
Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR)  
United States Department of Justice  
5107 Leesburg Pike, Suite 2600  
Falls Church, Virginia 20530

BY FAX: 703.605.0365

Dear Director Osuna,

I hope this message finds you well. I write to respectfully call your attention to a problem with the mail coming out of one of the Executive Office of Immigration Review offices.

As I explain in the attached affidavit, yesterday (March 10, 2014) I received a notice from the Arlington EOIR through regular U.S. mail. The notice, which is dated March 5, 2014, bears a postmark of February 11, 2014.

My client in this case has not suffered any harm due to this irregularity, and I am not bringing the problem to your attention with respect to this case. I write, rather, because it is important that judges and all parties in immigration hearings be able to have trust in the accuracy and integrity of postmarks. I have been in immigration hearings where the judge or attorneys for Homeland Security have reported that they have not received pleadings of mine; similarly, I recently represented a client in a hearing, the time of which had been changed, and for which I had not yet received notice from the court. I found out about the time change, accidentally, in a conversation with staff at the detention facility in which my client is held.

In such instances, we all turn to the postmark of the U.S. mail as the best evidence of when a document was mailed. The document I received yesterday suggests that, at least some of the mail coming out of the Arlington EOIR office between February 12, 2014, and March 5, 2014, bore an erroneous postmark.

I am also writing to Pitney Bowes so that someone there can help assist in solving this problem, and to the American Immigration Lawyers of America (AILA), in the event that the organization knows of any immigrants whose claims may have been compromised during this period.

Thank you in advance for your attention.

Sincerely,

Virginia Marie Raymond

