

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
Washington, DC

ORDER NO. 2990-2008

In the Matter of J-E-C-M)	
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)	
)	File Nos.: A079 506 797
)	A079 506 798
)	A079 506 799
)	A079 506 800
)	
Review of Board of Immigration)	
Appeals Decision by Attorney)	
General)	
)	

ORDER NO. 2991-2008

In the Matter of Bangaly)	
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)	File No.: A078 555 848
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Review of Board of Immigration)	
Appeals Decision by Attorney)	
General)	
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ORDER NO. 2992-2008

In the Matter of Compean)	
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)	File No.: A078 566 977
)	
)	
Review of Board of Immigration)	
Appeals Decision by Attorney)	
General)	
)	

September 4, 2008

BY HAND

The Honorable Michael B. Mukasey
Attorney General
United States Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Office of the Attorney General, Room 5114
Washington, DC 20530

Re: Right to Counsel – Immigration Proceedings

Dear Attorney General Mukasey:

The undersigned potential amici respectfully submit this letter to support the request of petitioners in the above-captioned matters for an extension of time to file briefs to November 15, 2008. As partners in law firms that provide pro bono legal representation to aliens seeking asylum, withholding of deportation and other relief in immigration cases, we are familiar with the poor quality of legal services many aliens receive in the immigration system. The cases are legion in which aliens are not informed of their rights, are victims of counsel or other authorized representatives who take their trust and money but then do not provide competent service, if any, to them, or are not even informed of basic matters such as the dates of hearings or final dispositions.

The answers to the four questions on which the Attorney General has requested briefing could have a profound impact on our immigration system and the quality of legal representation those who are indigent receive in what is frequently their first experience with the U.S. justice system. Those four issues each also present difficult constitutional or legislative questions and shape the quality of justice and fairness in the civil administration of the Immigration and Nationality Act. The brief extension of time requested will help ensure that the answers to those questions - whatever they may be - are reached after a process that in fact and in perception permits the views of all interested parties to be fully presented and fully considered.

Respectfully Submitted,

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¹ The law firm of each signatory hereto is listed for identification purposes only and not to suggest that the law firm itself subscribes to these views. This group of lawyers is still in formation.