



**Homeland
Security**

Office of the Citizenship and Immigration Services Ombudsman's Third Annual Conference
Government and Stakeholders Together: Improving Immigration Services

National Archives
Washington, D.C.
October 24, 2013

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. **Registration**
Lobby of William McGowan Theater

9:00 a.m. – Noon **Welcome**
Keynote Remarks and Plenary Panel
William McGowan Theater

Panel: Immigration Legal Services – Lessons Learned from Large Scale Legal Services Response

This panel will discuss various approaches and lessons learned from large scale legal services response, including the role, capacity, and strategies of large national networks, state coalitions, local legal services providers, pro bono partners, and the Government.

Noon – 1:30 p.m. Lunch (on your own)

1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. **Simultaneous Panel Discussions**

Panel: Challenges in High Skilled Immigration

This panel will review high skilled immigration options (H-1Bs, L-1s, and the path to permanent residency) for employers and individuals. Panelists will discuss legal, policy, and operational challenges, and potential changes to the statutory framework governing temporary and permanent high skilled immigration.

Panel: Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) – Progress and Possibilities

Panelists will examine the role of the AAO within USCIS and the immigration benefit adjudication process, recent improvements to AAO processing times, the AAO's authority and standard of review, the availability of appeal-related information, decision consistency and quality, issuance of precedent decisions, and timely access to recent AAO decisions.

Panel: Credible Fear Screenings

Requests for Credible Fear and Reasonable Fear Screenings are on the rise. This panel will bring DHS together with key stakeholders to discuss the upward trend in credible fear and reasonable fear screening requests and the steps being taken to address the impact of these requests on the U.S. asylum system.

Panel: USCIS Data Systems – Why They Matter and Efforts to Improve Data Integrity

This panel will discuss how USCIS data systems are managed and used to ensure data quality and integrity, as well as provide responsive customer service to individuals and employers seeking immigration status verification. Panelists will also discuss verification challenges and effective solutions from the perspective of the Government and the public.

Panel: Immigrant Waivers – Provisional I-601A Waivers and I-601s

This panel will explore the new 601A process, describe its eligibility criteria and discuss how it is working. The panel will also discuss another major processing change for immigrant waivers that took effect in December 2012, when all filing and adjudication of new overseas I-601 waivers shifted to U.S.-based USCIS offices instead of being handled overseas.