

Let Judges Be Judges

The nation's leading prosecutors and immigration judges are speaking out in support of immigration reform legislation that strengthens and expands judicial discretion.

PROSECUTORS

Robert Johnson

former president of the National District Attorneys Association



Reform legislation must amend harsh criminal bars and ensure that so-called aggravated felonies no longer trigger mandatory detention and deportation. There should be no additional aggravated felony offenses in the reform bill. It is inappropriate and unjust for immigration penalties to far surpass the criminal sanctions for these offenses.

Crime prevention and community safety demand a more nuanced approach, one that appreciates the ripple effect caused by mandatory deportations that leave communities depleted by unemployment and single parent households struggling to feed their families.

Steve Jansen

Vice-President of the Association for Prosecuting Attorneys



IMMIGRATION JUDGES

Judge Dana Leigh Marks

President of the National Association of Immigration Judges



As reform legislation is drafted and debated, we must consider the essential role immigration courts play in ensuring that everyone has a fair day in court when presenting their case to remain in the United States. Congress must revisit the courts' current resources and structuring, and better equip and empower our benches to secure due process for all. Enhanced due process and a more efficient removal process are solutions that would satisfy all sides of the immigration debate.

Federal legislation should include a waiver that allows immigration judges the discretion to grant relief from deportation in deserving cases by weighing the age of the conviction, the severity of the offense, evidence of rehabilitation, substantial family ties in the United States and other factors relevant to the public interest.

Judge Paul Grussendorf

former immigration judge in Philadelphia and San Francisco

