

Washington, DC

February 24, 2006

The American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) Legal Department is currently working with a group of immigration attorneys on a project for which it seeks the assistance of immigration attorneys nationally.

A major problem that is currently experienced by members of the Arab, South-Asian, and Muslim communities is the significant delays in the processing of their naturalization petitions by US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). In fact, multiple examples brought forth to ADC have demonstrated that these delays are often several years long. Because of the 120-day processing time requirement, numerous immigration attorneys who filed writs of mandamus to compel the processing of their significantly delayed petitions were granted their naturalizations immediately after filing the writs.

However, the added writ-filing step that many naturalization petitioners now must take is creating significant delays, and is not financially feasible for all petitioners.

ADC is seeking to call attention to this phenomenon through a legal action and media campaign, to take place in a few weeks time, wherein attorneys all over the country will simultaneously file writs of mandamus for their delayed-naturalization clients. ADC will join in each of those actions around the country and coordinate the effort to be at the same time, in multiple jurisdictions, with simultaneous press conferences taking place in four to five cities following the filing. Based on past experiences, ADC believes that the writs will be granted and the resulting information will show that these delays have been a nationwide problem for Arabs, South Asians, and Muslims seeking naturalization.

Furthermore, because individuals facing these delays remain in the US for years without their case being adjudicated, ADC views the lack of adjudication of these cases as a threat to US national security.

To this end, ADC is seeking your help in identifying individuals who have experienced significant delays in their naturalization process, well beyond the 120-day period. If you have such a client and are interested in joining ADC with this campaign and filing a writ of mandamus to compel USCIS to process their naturalization please contact Ms. Lema Bashir at the ADC Legal Department by calling (202) 244-2990 or via email at legal@adc.org Please do so by close of business Friday March 10, 2006.