

September 19, 2019
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Dear Senator Harris:

I am concerned about immigration courts. Immigration law with its odd position within the executive rather than judicial branch is notoriously Byzantine, involving mostly unrepresented and disoriented people in a system with little logic and huge impact on their lives. Decades of improving representation, adherence to precedent and independence for judges is now being lost starting with General Sessions' move to undermine precedent by removing gang threats as an asylum criterion and followed by quotas, skewed promotions and now the shifting of appeals to a political appointee (prompting the resignation of Judge Neal) to undermine judicial independence. At the same time arbitrary new rules are forcing people into Mexico and the proceedings themselves are becoming more cursory with such recent examples as an unrepresented three-year old litigant, translation and appraisal of rights provided by balky video connection and now tent courts added to the tent prisons all for people who have not only done nothing wrong but are poised to become our societies most interesting and productive members if only they can escape our government hazing.

Please assure me that you will shift immigration adjudication to the judiciary.

I am very proud to be a US resident and a large part of that derives from the equal protection of the laws.

Sincerely,
Eric Babson