



U.S. Department of Justice

Executive Office for Immigration Review

Office of the Chief Immigration Judge

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5107 Leesburg Pike, Suite 2500
Falls Church, Virginia 22041

The Immigration Court Practice Manual

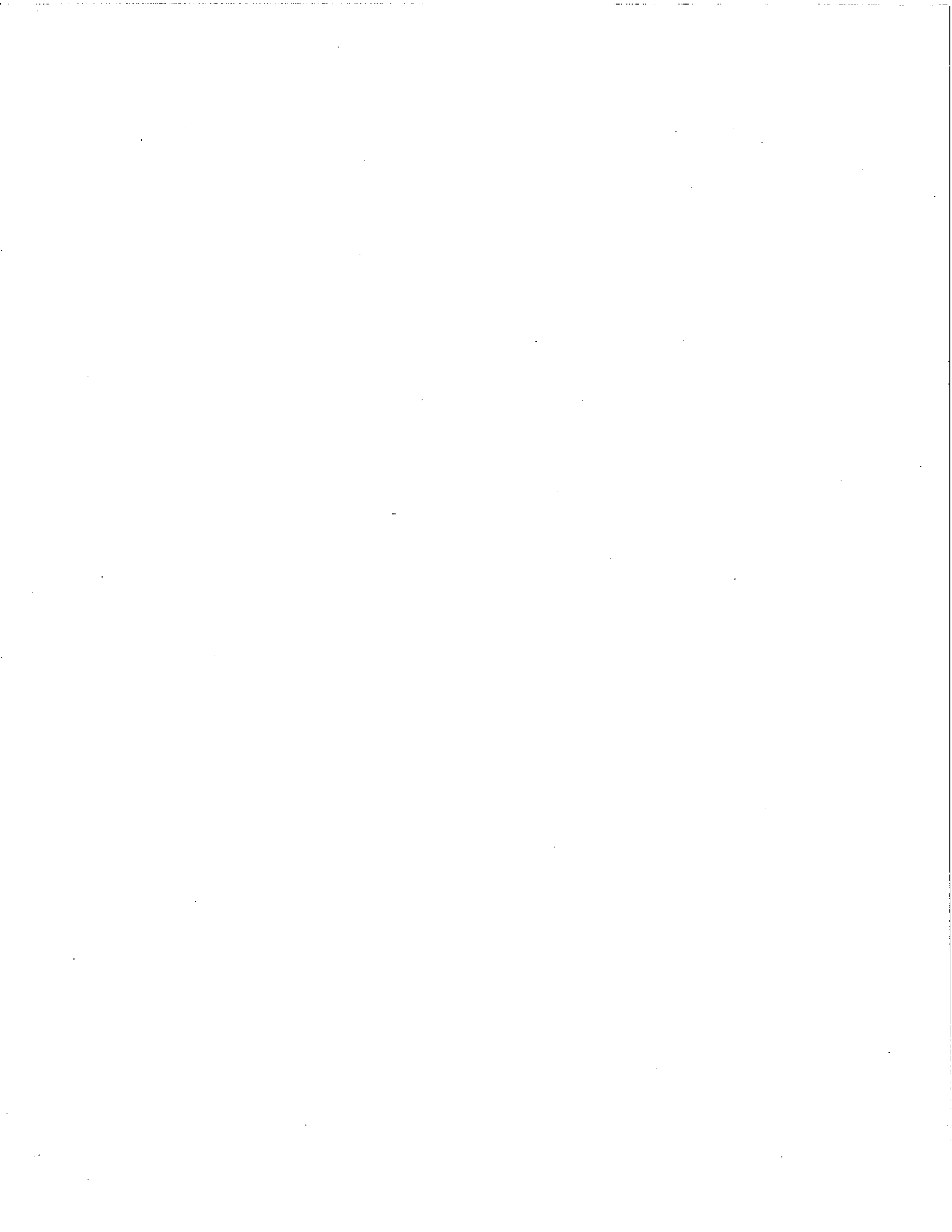
In 2006, the Attorney General instructed the Director of the Executive Office for Immigration Review, in consultation with the Immigration Judges, to issue a practice manual for the parties who appear before the Immigration Courts. This directive arose out of the public's desire for greater uniformity in Immigration Court procedures and a call for the Immigration Courts to implement their "best practices" nationwide.

Accordingly, the Office of the Chief Immigration Judge published the Immigration Court Practice Manual in February 2008. The Practice Manual is a comprehensive guide that sets forth uniform procedures, recommendations, and requirements for practice before the Immigration Courts. The requirements set forth in this manual are binding on the parties who appear before the Immigration Courts, unless the Immigration Judge directs otherwise in a particular case. The Practice Manual does not limit the discretion of Immigration Judges to act in accordance with law and regulation.

The Practice Manual is intended to be a "living document," and the Office of the Chief Immigration Judge updates it in response to changes in law and policy, as well as in response to comments by the parties using it. We welcome suggestions and encourage the public to provide comments, to identify errors or ambiguities in the text, and to propose revisions. Information regarding where to send your correspondence is included in Chapter 13 of the Practice Manual.

The Office of the Chief Immigration Judge has made the Immigration Court Practice Manual available through the EOIR website at www.usdoj.gov/eoir. We encourage you to share the Practice Manual with any individuals or organizations that may benefit from it.


Chief Immigration Judge



Immigration Court Practice Manual



The Practice Manual has been assembled as a public service to parties appearing before the Immigration Courts. This manual is not intended, in any way, to substitute for a careful study of the pertinent laws and regulations. Readers are advised to review Chapter 1.1 before consulting any information contained herein.

The Practice Manual is updated periodically. The legend at the bottom of each page reflects the last revision date for that page. Updates to the Practice Manual are available through the EOIR website at www.usdoj.gov/eoir.

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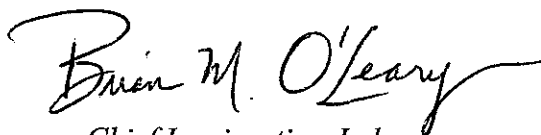
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The Office of the Chief Immigration Judge expresses its gratitude to the many Immigration Judges, Court Administrators, and other individuals who provided comments and suggestions during the preparation of the Immigration Court Practice Manual. The Office of the Chief Immigration Judge also expresses appreciation to former Chief Immigration Judge David L. Neal for his leadership in creating the Practice Manual. In addition, the Office of the Chief Immigration Judge recognizes the members of the Practice Manual Committee for their dedication in creating and updating this publication on an ongoing basis:

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Chief Immigration Judge