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NEWS RELEASE

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September 2, 2010

EOIR Completes Digital Audio Recording Implementation

FALLS CHURCH, Va. – The Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) announced today that it has completed the installation of its Digital Audio Recording (DAR) system in all of its courtrooms, four weeks ahead of schedule. The DAR system is a state-of-the-art recording tool designed to achieve a better quality and more easily accessible recording of immigration court hearings.

“The immigration courts and the public will benefit from the tremendous improvements in the technology available with DAR,” said Acting Director Thomas Snow. “This new system provides transcribers, judges, attorneys, and others within the immigration community access to the recorded hearing in a more timely and efficient manner.”

At the conclusion of a hearing, DAR allows for recordings to be available sooner. DAR replaces an analog tape system, which required immigration courts to mail tapes for transcription. This new system improves the quality of recordings and transcriptions through the use of more microphones throughout each courtroom. DAR also decreases the time it takes to receive and transfer recordings of proceedings for transcription once appeals are filed.

EOIR began implementing DAR in November 2007 with a targeted completion date of September 30, 2010. More than 300 courtrooms in EOIR’s 59 immigration courts are now using DAR.

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The Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) is an agency within the Department of Justice. Under delegated authority from the Attorney General, immigration judges and the Board of Immigration Appeals interpret and adjudicate immigration cases according to United States immigration laws. EOIR’s immigration judges conduct administrative court proceedings in immigration courts located throughout the nation. They determine whether foreign-born individuals—who are charged by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) with violating immigration law—should be ordered removed from the United States or should be granted relief from removal and be permitted to remain in this country. The Board of Immigration Appeals primarily reviews appeals of decisions by immigration judges. EOIR’s Office of the Chief Administrative Hearing Officer adjudicates immigration-related employment cases. EOIR is committed to ensuring fairness in all of the cases it adjudicates.