UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR IMMIGRATION REVIEW OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING OFFICER

January 28, 2025

ZAJI ZAJRADHARA,)	
Complainant,)	
)	8 U.S.C. § 1324b Proceeding
V.)	OCAHO Case No. 2024B00013
)	
JIN JOO CORPORATION,)	
Respondent.)	
)	

Appearances: Zaji O. Zajradhara, pro se Complainant Stephen J. Nutting, Esq., for Respondent

ORDER GRANTING COMPLAINANT E-FILING MOTION & CASE MANAGEMENT ORDER

This case arises under the employment discrimination provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), as amended, 8 U.S.C. § 1324b. On October 17, 2023, Complainant, Zaji Obatala Zajradhara, filed a complaint with the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer (OCAHO) against Respondent, Jin Joo Corporation.

On January 8, 2025, Respondent filed an Answer. The Court accepted the late-filed answer. Order Accepting Answer 2.

On January 2, 2025, Complainant emailed the Court, requesting that the Court "consider allowing [him] to e-file for this matter" because he is indigent.

I. COMPLAINANT'S MOTION SEEKING E-FILING STATUS IS GRANTED

As the Court has previously noted, there are some logistical difficulties inherent with case filings sent from Saipan. Zajradhara v. Pure Water Corp., 20 OCAHO no. 1584b, 2 (2024). Separately, the Court has previously found indigency to be good cause to permit e-filing for a party, as it ensures access to the forum. Zajradhara v. E-Supply Enters., 16 OCAHO no. 1438f, 2 (2023). To that end, Complainant's motion requesting e-filing is GRANTED. Complainant may file all submissions electronically to the Court; however, service must still be completed by the parties on

each other as a mail filing case (and memorialized with a Certificate of Service). The Court will serve its orders both electronically to email addresses (as available) and via the mail.¹ Deadlines will still contemplate mail issuance of orders and submission of filings.

II. COMPLAINANT'S JANUARY 20, 2025 E-FILED SUBMISSION IS ACCEPTED

Consistent with the Court's assessment of the propriety of e-filing for this Complainant, the Court now accepts his "Complainant's Amended Response to Court Order and Amended Claim for Employment Discrimination, submitted by email on January 20, 2025." Complainant must understand that in accepting this filing, the Court is exercising its discretion in his favor because he failed to provide a Certificate of Service that demonstrates service on Respondent. As a courtesy (and not an entitlement), the Court will attach this filing to this Order so that Respondent has notice and an opportunity to be heard.

To that end, Respondent may provide any submission related to this filing electronically (to ensure parity of access), or by mail. The Court must receive any such filing by March 31, 2025 for it to be considered timely. Respondent should note that the Court intends to construe the filing as a motion for reconsideration based on its contents (vice its title).

III. PREHEARING CONFERENCE – CASE MANAGEMENT & SCHEDULE

A. Electronic Filing Pilot Program

OCAHO's Electronic Filing Pilot Program allows the parties to send filings and receive orders from the Court electronically. The Court now invites the parties to participate in the Pilot Program. This Order is accompanied by Instructions for Filing by Email, a Registration Form and Certification, and instructions for decrypting secure messages. Completion of the forms would fully convert the case to electronic filing and service. Declination by one or both parties does not change Complainant's access to e-filing.

B. Settlement Officer Program

OCAHO's Settlement Officer Program is a no-cost, voluntary facilitated mediated service. The settlement discussions are subject to the confidentiality provisions of 5 U.S.C. § 574. Should the parties reach a settlement, 28 C.F.R. § 68.14 applies. Both parties must submit written consent to refer this case to the Program. The parties can ask for a referral up to 30 days prior to a hearing.

The Court will utilize the email addresses for Respondent and Respondent's counsel from Complainant's January 20, 2025 e-filed submission. To the extent that Respondent or Respondent's counsel would like the Court to utilize different email addresses, Respondent should provide those updated email addresses to the Court.

C. OCAHO Resources

OCAHO's published decisions (organized by volume) and cumulative topical index are available on OCAHO's website.².

D. Case Schedule

The Court sets the following case schedule:

Discovery closes (discovery motions due): July 7, 2025 Dispositive motions due: October 6, 2025

Responses to dispositive motions due:

30 days after dispositive motion filed

Tentative hearing: Spring 2026 in Saipan

SO ORDERED.

Dated and entered on January 28, 2025.

Honorable Andrea R. Carroll-Tipton Administrative Law Judge

 $^{^2 \}textit{ See } \textbf{https://www.justice.gov/eoir/office-of-the-chief-administrative-hearing-officer-decisions}.$