

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

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)	
Complainant,)	
)	
)	8 U.S.C. § 1324a Proceeding
v.)	OCAHO Case No. 2025A00015
)	
)	
CENTENNIAL ELEVATOR INDUSTRIES, INC.,)	
Respondent.)	
)	

Appearances: Bonnie A. Schroeck, Esq., for Complainant
Genevieve LoPresti, Esq., for Respondent

ORDER SUMMARIZING PREHEARING CONFERENCE &
REFERRING CASE TO SETTLEMENT OFFICER PROGRAM

This case arises under the employment eligibility verification provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended, 8 U.S.C. § 1324a. On November 4, 2024, Complainant, the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Immigration and Customs Enforcement, filed a complaint with the Office of the Chief Administrative Hearing Officer (OCAHO) alleging that Respondent Centennial Elevator Industries, Inc. failed to prepare and/or present the Employment Eligibility Verification Form (Form I-9) for 281 individuals in violate of 8 U.S.C. § 1324a(a)(1)(B). Compl., Ex. A. On December 6, 2024, Respondent filed its Answer and Affirmative Defenses.

I. PREHEARING CONFERENCE

On February 28, 2025, the Court held a telephonic prehearing conference pursuant to 28 C.F.R. § 68.5(a). Bonnie Schroeck, Esq. attended on behalf of Complainant and Genevieve LoPresti, Esq. attended on behalf of Respondent. The Court and parties discussed the following subjects:

Settlement Officer Program:

Both parties issued written requests for referral to the Settlement Officer Program. The Court stated that it would grant the request and refer the parties to the program, staying case deadlines during the referral period.

Complainant's counsel inquired about whether to pause their ongoing settlement discussions until the case was referred. The Court indicated that the parties are welcome to continue their negotiations independently prior to the referral.

Electronic Filing:

Complainant elected to participate in the electronic filing program by submitting the electronic registration form. The undersigned inquired whether Respondent also intended to participate in the program. Respondent's counsel indicated that she was amenable to participating in e-filing. Court staff sent Respondent counsel a copy of the electronic filing registration form.

II. REFERRAL TO SETTLEMENT OFFICER PROGRAM

In that both the parties indicate a willingness to participate in the Settlement Officer Program, the Court finds referral appropriate. The Court therefore ORDERS that the matter be referred to the Settlement Officer Program for a period of 60 days, beginning on March 31, 2025, continuing through May 30, 2025.

The Court designates the Honorable Andrea Carroll-Tipton as the Settlement Officer for this case. Should the parties reach a settlement, they shall inform the undersigned of such settlement and provide the appropriate filing. See 28 C.F.R. § 68.14.¹

During the referral period, these proceedings will be stayed. Should the parties feel an extension of the referral period would be beneficial, they may seek an extension of up to 30 days by notifying the settlement officer, who will in turn relay the request to the undersigned.²

SO ORDERED.

Dated and entered on March 27, 2025

Honorable John A. Henderson
Administrative Law Judge

¹ OCAHO Rules of Practice and Procedure, 28 C.F.R. pt. 68 (2024).

² Policy Memorandum 20-16, Section II.D.2.