

8 U.S.C. § 1324b Proceeding
OCAHO Case No. 2025B00026

Appearances: Vikram Angurala, for Complainant
Kendall Hoechst, Esq., for Respondent

ORDER SUMMARIZING PREHEARING CONFERENCE & REFERRING CASE TO SETTLEMENT OFFICER PROGRAM

On December 23, 2024, Complainant Aditya Singh filed a complaint with the Office of the Chief Administrative Hearing Officer (OCAHO). The complaint alleges violations of 8 U.S.C. §§ 1324b(a)(1), (a)(5), and (a)(6).

On May 1, 2025, the Court held an initial telephonic prehearing conference with the parties pursuant to 28 C.F.R. § 68.13.¹ In preparation for the conference, Respondent submitted a prehearing statement through which it indicated the parties had met and discussed the possibility of settlement, and that both parties would like to participate in OCAHO's Settlement Officer Program.² The Court confirmed that this was still the parties intention, and explained the basic functions of the program and the settlement officer who would be assigned to their case.

Having received written consent from both parties, the Court now finds referral of this matter to the Settlement Officer Program to be appropriate. The Court therefore ORDERS that the matter be referred to the Settlement Officer Program for a period of 60 days, beginning on May 7, 2025, and continuing through July 7, 2025.

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

² More information regarding the Settlement Officer Program is found in chapter 4.7 of OCAHO's Practice Manual, accessed online at: <https://www.justice.gov/eoir/reference-materials/ocho/chapter-4/7>.

The Court designates the Honorable Carol Bell 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.

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 request approval from the undersigned.³

SO ORDERED.

Dated and entered on May 7, 2025.

Honorable John A. Henderson
Administrative Law Judge

³ *See* OCAHO Practice Manual Ch. 4.7(b)(4)(A).