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

	June 10, 2025	
JANOS LETA, Complainant,)	
v.) 8 U.S.C. § 1324b Proceeding OCAHO Case No. 2025B00	
WESTERN EXPRESS INC., Respondent.)))	
)	

Appearances: Janos Leta, pro se Complainant

Rachel K. Speller, Esq., for Respondent

ORDER REFERRING CASE TO SETTLEMENT OFFICER PROGRAM

This case arises under the antidiscrimination provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), as amended, 8 U.S.C. § 1324b. Complainant, Janos Leta, filed a complaint with the Office of the Chief Administrative Hearing Officer (OCAHO) on March 17, 2025. Complainant alleges that Respondent discriminated on the basis of citizenship status and national origin, retaliated against him, and engaged in unlawful documentary practices in violation of 8 U.S.C. §§ 1324b(a)(1), (a)(5), and (a)(6). On April 23, 2025, Respondent filed an answer.

On April 29, 2025, the Court issued an Order Scheduling Prehearing Conference and General Litigation Order.

On May 23, 2025, Complainant filed his Initial Prehearing Statement, in which he indicated he would welcome referral to the Settlement Officer Program.¹ Complainant's Pre'h'r'g State. 1. Respondent shared an emailed courtesy copy of its Prehearing Statement on May 28, 2025, after the conference, and filed a mail copy on June 3, 2025. Respondent indicated it would welcome referral to the Settlement Officer Program. Resp't's Preh'r'g State. 1.

During the initial prehearing conference on May 28, 2025, the parties both reaffirmed their interest in a referral to the Settlement Officer Program. Order Summ. Preh'r'g Conf. 2.

¹ https://www.justice.gov/eoir/reference-materials/ocaho/chapter-4/7; *see* OCAHO Settlement Officer Program Policy Memorandum 20-16, available at https://www.justice.gov/eoir/page/file/1300746/download.

Pursuant to the August 3, 2020, EOIR Policy Memorandum 20-16, a presiding administrative law judge may make a referral to the Settlement Officer Program upon written consent of both parties. Having received written consent from both parties, the Court ORDERS that this matter be referred to the Settlement Officer Program for a period of sixty days, beginning on June 16, 2025, and ending on August 15, 2025. The Court designates the Honorable Andrea Carroll-Tipton, Administrative Law Judge, as the Settlement Officer for this case.

The referral may be extended for an additional 30 days upon the parties' request to the Settlement Officer. At the end of the referral period, the case will return to active litigation.

Should the parties reach a settlement by the end of the referral period, they shall inform the undersigned of such settlement and provide an appropriate filing to depart the forum. See 28 C.F.R. § 68.14. If the parties do not reach a settlement, they should anticipate an order for status reports or a prehearing conference to set case deadlines.

All proceedings are STAYED during the referral period. Copies of the Settlement Officer Program's rules are provided to the parties with this Order.

SO ORDERED.

Dated and entered on June 10, 2025.

Honorable Jean C. King Administrative Law Judge