

organizations that represent aliens. In some Immigration Courts, a Liaison Judge also participates as a liaison with these groups.

A listing of the Immigration Courts is available on the Executive Office for Immigration Review website at [www.usdoj.gov/eoir](http://www.usdoj.gov/eoir).

**(c) Immigration Judge conduct and professionalism.** — Immigration Judges strive to act honorably, fairly, and in accordance with the highest ethical standards, thereby ensuring public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of Immigration Court proceedings. Alleged misconduct by Immigration Judges is taken seriously by the Department of Justice and the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR), especially if it impugns the integrity of the hearing process.

Usually, when a disagreement arises with an Immigration Judge's ruling, the disagreement is properly raised in a motion to the Immigration Judge or an appeal to the Board of Immigration Appeals. When a party has an immediate concern regarding an Immigration Judge's conduct that is not appropriate for a motion or appeal, the concern may be raised with the Assistant Chief Immigration Judge (ACIJ) responsible for the court or the ACIJ for Conduct and Professionalism. Contact information for ACIJs is available on the EOIR website at [www.usdoj.gov/eoir/sibpages/ICadr.htm](http://www.usdoj.gov/eoir/sibpages/ICadr.htm).

In the alternative, parties may raise concerns regarding an Immigration Judge's conduct directly with the Office of the Chief Immigration (OCIJ) by following the procedures outlined on the EOIR website at [www.usdoj.gov/eoir/sibpages/IJConduct.htm](http://www.usdoj.gov/eoir/sibpages/IJConduct.htm) or by sending an e-mail to OCIJ at: [EOIR.IJConduct@usdoj.gov](mailto:EOIR.IJConduct@usdoj.gov). Where appropriate, concerns may also be raised with the Department of Justice, Office of Professional Responsibility. All concerns, and any actions taken, may be considered confidential and not subject to disclosure.

## 1.4 Other EOIR Components

**(a) Office of the General Counsel.** — The Office of the General Counsel (OGC) provides legal advice to the Executive Office for Immigration Review. OGC also functions as a resource and point of contact for the public in certain instances. In particular, OGC responds to Freedom of Information Act requests related to immigration proceedings. See Chapter 12 (Freedom of Information Act). OGC receives complaints of misconduct involving immigration practitioners, and initiates disciplinary proceedings where appropriate. See Chapter 10 (Discipline of Practitioners). Working with the Board of Immigration Appeals, OGC also maintains the list of accredited representatives who may represent aliens before the Immigration Courts and the Board. See Chapter 2.4 (Accredited Representatives).

**(b) EOIR Fraud Program.** — The Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) Fraud Program was created to protect the integrity of immigration proceedings by reducing immigration fraud and abuse. The EOIR Fraud Program assists Immigration Judges and EOIR staff in identifying fraud. In addition, the program shares information with law enforcement and investigative authorities. The program is an initiative of the EOIR Office of the General Counsel, as directed by the Attorney General.

Immigration fraud and abuse can take many forms. Fraud is sometimes committed during Immigration Court proceedings by individuals in proceedings and by their attorneys. In addition, aliens are often victimized by fraud committed by individuals not authorized to practice law, who are frequently referred to as “immigration specialists,” “visa consultants,” “travel agents,” and “notarios.”

Where a person suspects that immigration fraud has been committed, he or she may report this to the EOIR Fraud Program. Where appropriate, the EOIR Fraud Program refers cases to other authorities for further investigation.

Individuals wishing to report immigration fraud or abuse, or other irregular activity, should contact the EOIR Fraud Program. For contact information, see Appendix B (EOIR Directory).

**(c) Legal Orientation and Pro Bono Program.** — The Legal Orientation and Pro Bono Program (LOP) was created to provide detained aliens with essential and easy-to-understand information regarding the Immigration Court process, including their rights, responsibilities, and options for relief from removal. The LOP is an initiative of the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR), Office of the General Counsel.

The LOP is carried out locally through subcontracts with nonprofit legal agencies in cooperation with a number of local Immigration Courts and detention facilities.

The LOP providers conduct “group orientations,” which are general rights presentations given to detained aliens prior to their first Immigration Court hearing. “Individual orientations” and “self-help workshops” are then provided to unrepresented detainees to assist them with understanding their cases and identifying potential claims for relief from removal. While the LOP does not pay for legal representation, all detained aliens at LOP sites are provided access to program services, which may also include assistance with either locating pro bono counsel or representing themselves before the court.

More information about the LOP is available on the EOIR website at [www.usdoj.gov/eoir](http://www.usdoj.gov/eoir).