

Immigration numbers are accurate

Mark Metcalf's July 21 Other Views column, Failing system needs reform, bears little resemblance to reality as we in the Department of Justice, Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) know it.

Metcalf has made faulty arguments, erroneous assumptions and miscalculations to accuse EOIR of publishing inaccurate yearly reports. Nothing could be further from the truth. EOIR stands by its published numbers.

Metcalf also argues that EOIR should enforce its own removal orders. As a former immigration judge, he is well aware that EOIR has no statutory authority to execute its own deportation orders; that's the responsibility of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). EOIR is in continuous contact with DHS to anticipate caseload trends, and this coordination allows our departments to explore additional ways of handling the removal adjudication process more efficiently, focusing resources on the highest priority removal cases, namely individuals with serious criminal convictions and others who pose a danger to our communities.

His inaccurate and ill-informed assumptions belie the major accomplishments of the Department of Justice, the immigration courts and the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA). He belittles the hard work and professionalism of our immigration judges, BIA members and the other dedicated employees at EOIR.

I am proud of the work that EOIR has done and continues to do to benefit and serve the interests of justice within our country's immigration system.

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