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NEWS RELEASE

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Executive Office for Immigration Review Expands Legal Orientation Program Sites

FALLS CHURCH, Va. – The Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) today announced the expansion of the Office of Legal Access Programs' Legal Orientation Program (LOP) to three additional detention sites: Irwin County Detention Center in Ocilla, Ga.; Polk County Detention Center (IAH Secure) in Livingston, Texas; and Rolling Plains Detention Center in Haskell, Texas. Through the LOP, EOIR contracts with representatives from non-profit organizations to provide explanations about immigration court policies and procedures to groups of detained individuals. This new expansion brings the number of LOP sites to 41.

Since 2002, EOIR has carried out the LOP to improve judicial efficiency in the immigration courts, and to assist detained individuals and others involved in removal proceedings to make timely and informed decisions. Under the LOP, EOIR's contractors provide group and individual orientations, self-help workshops, and pro bono referral services for individuals in removal proceedings.

Please see EOIR's Office of Legal Access Programs <u>Fact Sheet</u> for more information on the LOP and EOIR's additional legal access programs.

— EOIR —

The Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) is an agency within the Department of Justice. Under delegated authority from the Attorney General, immigration judges and the Board of Immigration Appeals interpret and adjudicate immigration cases according to United States immigration laws. EOIR's immigration judges conduct administrative court proceedings in immigration courts located throughout the nation. They determine whether foreign-born individuals — whom the Department of Homeland Security charges with violating immigration law — should be ordered removed from the United States or should be granted relief from removal and be permitted to remain in this country. The Board of Immigration Appeals primarily reviews appeals of decisions by immigration judges. EOIR's Office of the Chief Administrative Hearing Officer adjudicates immigration-related employment cases. EOIR is committed to ensuring fairness in all of the cases it adjudicates.