

October 15, 2021

Director David Neal
Executive Office for Immigration Review
5107 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, VA 22041

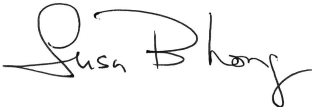
Dear Director David Neal:

Congratulations on your recent appointment to Director of the Executive Office for Immigration Review by Attorney General Merrick Garland. Given the enormous challenges that the Immigration Courts face, we are grateful for your service and eager to see how the EOIR evolves under your leadership. Moreover, since your diverse career has spanned the American Immigration Lawyers Association, Georgetown University, and the BIA among other positions, we hope you have seen the value that TRAC offers the American public and would consider us both a resource and a partner in our efforts to facilitate transparency, scholarly research, and greater awareness about the difficult work that Immigration Judges perform every single day.

As you probably already know, we closely monitor the Immigration Court data, and, when necessary, we raise data quality concerns to the EOIR in good faith so that we can confirm our findings and reach a mutually-beneficial resolution. We are reaching out to you today with one of those concerns. To put it briefly, we are concerned about the quality of data on juveniles in the CASE database. We previously sent a detailed letter to Acting Director King on September 22 (see attached), but since that letter may have fallen through the cracks in the transition, we are sending our concerns now to you.

With the availability of 2021 fiscal year-end data, your ITS staff is undoubtedly at work preparing updated tables for posting on your website, including [Tables 29-31](#) on court cases for unaccompanied children. We urge you to inquire about the accuracy of these statistics and the underlying CASE juvenile history database table on which these statistics are apparently based. The attached letter describes the discrepancies we found and we would be happy to share additional details should you or your staff find that helpful.

Sincerely,



Susan B. Long
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Associate Professor
Martin J. Whitman School of Management
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David Burnham
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S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications
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Enclosure: September 22, 2021 letter to Acting Director Jean King