




U.S. Department of Justice  
Immigration and Naturalization Service

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Washington, DC 20536

NOV 30 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR SERVICE CENTER DIRECTORS  
REGIONAL DIRECTORS

FROM: William R. Yates   
Deputy Executive Associate Commissioner  
Office of Field Operations  
Immigration Services Division

SUBJECT: Termination of Sole Jurisdiction Authorization

This memorandum advises you that Headquarters Immigration Services Division (HQISD) has determined that Service Centers must deny all pending and future sole jurisdiction requests. Sole jurisdiction processing was initially introduced to ensure consistent adjudication and timely processing of certain high volume petitions and applications. However, the implementation of sole jurisdiction processing has resulted in an imbalance in workloads across the four Service Centers on Forms I-129, I-140 and I-485.

As HQISD continues to establish uniform standard operating procedures, consistency in adjudications for Forms I-129, I-140 and I-485 will be ensured. Service Centers will soon be able to maintain reasonable processing times for Form I-129 at all four Service Centers. Backlog reduction plans for Forms I-140 and I-485 will reduce processing times to acceptable levels in those areas. For these reasons, the need for sole jurisdiction processing will no longer pertain. The termination of this program will allow for re-establishing balance in workloads between the Service Centers.

Service Centers will continue to honor existing sole jurisdiction arrangements pending a subsequent review of the operational impact. If you have any questions about this subject, please contact Tracy Renaud at (202) 305-8012.