ASYLUM SEEKERS IN EXPEDITED REMOVAL:
A Study Authorized by Section 605 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998

EXPERTS

Mark Hetfield, J.D., Study Director (Report on Credible Fear Determinations)

Mark Hetfield joined the US Commission on International Religious Freedom in May 2003 after fourteen years of working in immigration and refugee law at the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) as well as in the private and non-profit sectors, serving in New York, Rome, Washington, Port-au-Prince, and Guam. In addition to practicing immigration law and supervising INS Adjudicators, he has served as Director of International Operations as well as Washington Representative for a faith-based NGO focused on refugee protection and resettlement. Mr. Hetfield is a specialist in Russia and the former Soviet Union. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service (BSFS) from Georgetown University, where he earned a certificate in Russian Area Studies. He also graduated cum laude with a juris doctor from Georgetown University Law Center.

Kate Jastram, M.A., J.D. (A-File and Record of Proceeding Analysis of Expedited Removal)

Kate Jastram teaches refugee law, advanced asylum issues, and global migration issues at the University of California, Berkeley, Boalt Hall School of Law. Prior to joining the faculty at UC-Berkeley, she worked for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; her responsibilities included serving as UNHCR's Deputy Representative for the United States and the Caribbean from 1994-1997. Before that, she directed a pro bono asylum program in Minneapolis, and practiced immigration law in San Francisco. Her scholarly work has focused on human rights and migration issues; recent publications include "Human Rights in Refugee Tribunals" (forthcoming, Refugee Law Quarterly) and "Family unification, including migration of children" (Migration and Legal Norms, 2003). Ms. Jastram received her B.A. from San Francisco State University 1980, her M.A. from Sarah Lawrence College 1982, and her J.D. from UC Berkeley (Boalt Hall) in 1986.

Allen Keller, M.D. (Evaluation of Credible Fear Referral in Expedited Removal at Ports of Entry in the United States)

Dr. Allen Keller is Assistant Professor of Medicine at New York University School of Medicine and Director of the Bellevue/NYU Program for Survivors of Torture. Since 1995, the Bellevue/NYU Program has provided comprehensive, multi-disciplinary care to more than 1,500 victims of torture, many of whom are asylum seekers or asylees, and their families from over 70 countries. Dr. Keller is recognized internationally as an expert in the evaluation and treatment of torture victims and asylum seekers. Dr. Keller is on the advisory board of Physicians For Human Rights (PHR) and has written and spoken about a number of issues relating to health and human rights including the evaluation and treatment of torture victims, political asylum, access to health care for prisoners, and the medical and social consequences of land mines. Dr. Keller has conducted several studies on refugee/asylum seeker populations in the United States, Eastern Europe, and India. In 2003, Dr. Keller completed a study examining the health of asylum seekers
detained in the United States by the INS. This study, jointly conducted by the Bellevue/NYU Program and PHR, was the first of its kind. In 2003, Dr. Keller received the Barbara Chester Award, an international award given to a clinician in recognition of outstanding care provided to victims of torture. He was also honored in 1999 and again in 2001 with the NYU School of Medicine Humanism in Medicine Award.


Charles H. Kuck of Atlanta, Georgia is an Adjunct Professor of Law at the University of Georgia, School of Law. Mr. Kuck is also the managing partner of Weathersby, Howard & Kuck, LLC., located in Atlanta, Georgia. Mr. Kuck practices all areas of family, business and removal based immigration law, including federal court immigration litigation. Mr. Kuck is Editor-in-Chief of AILA's Litigation Toolbox, and currently serves at the elected National Treasurer of AILA. He previously served as an elected Director of AILA for six years. Among other activities, he has chaired AILA’s USCIS HQ Liaison Committee and AILA’s UPL/CPAR Committee. He also served as chair of AILA’s 2002 Annual Conference. Mr. Kuck is a past recipient of AILA’s Minsky Young Lawyer Award, and Catholic Social Services’ Pro Bono Award. Mr. Kuck has written numerous articles on U.S. immigration law and policy, and has spoken to many industry, legal and professional groups on these same issues.

DETENTION ADVISOR

Craig Haney, J.D., Ph.D. (Conditions of Confinement for Detained Asylum Seekers Subject to Expeditied Removal)

Craig Haney received his Ph.D. in psychology and J.D. degrees from Stanford University in 1978. One of the principal researchers on the highly publicized “Stanford Prison Experiment” in 1971, he has been studying the psychological effects of living and working in actual prison environments since then. His work has taken him to dozens of maximum security prisons across the United States and in several different countries where he has evaluated conditions of confinement and interviewed prisoners about the mental health consequences of incarceration. Professor Haney has published widely on prison-related topics in a variety of scholarly journals, including the American Psychologist, and Psychology, Public Policy, and Law. In addition, he has a forthcoming book that focuses on the nature and psychology of contemporary imprisonment and will be published by the American Psychological Association in 2005. He also has served as a consultant to various governmental agencies, including the White House, Department of Justice, California Legislature, and various state and federal courts. His research, writing, and testimony have been cited in many judicial opinions that address the psychological consequences of incarceration. Professor Haney has testified as an expert witness in many trials around the country, addressing a variety of important issues in the areas of criminal justice and constitutional law.

* Replaced Robert C. Divine, who participated as an expert in the Study from October 2003 through June 2004, when he resigned to accept an appointment as Chief Counsel at United States Citizenship and Immigration Services at the Department of Homeland Security.

Fritz Scheuren is the Vice-President for Statistics at the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) and a statistical consultant for the Human Rights Data Analysis Group of the AAAS Science and Human Rights Program. Dr. Scheuren has also been recently named president elect of the American Statistical Association (ASA). He has had a long career of public service and presently focuses on human rights activities, working on projects for the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, on Native American Trust Fund issues, and, most recently, on improvements in vote counting for the 2004 presidential election. He has also consulted on the methods of statistical analysis for Peru's Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Dr. Scheuren has received numerous awards and honors including: the ASA Founders Award (1998); Shiskin Award for contributions to U.S. Economic Statistics (1995); Finalist, Senior Executive Association Executive Excellence Award, (1992); Elected Member, the International Statistical Institute (1988); Elected Fellow, the American Association for the Advancement of Science (1984); Elected Fellow, the American Statistical Association (1981).