

Sept. 19, 2016, Letters to the Editor

[Herald Readers](#) Monday, September 19, 2016

In defense of court

I was dismayed by the content and tone of the Herald coverage of the Massachusetts immigration court and the judges who serve on it (“Bay State sees plunge in deportations,” Sept. 7).

The purpose of the immigration court system is not to blindly issue removal orders for all who appear before it, as the articles imply. Its purpose is to fairly apply long-standing immigration laws enacted by Congress (not created by President Obama) to individual cases.

As former immigration Judge Eliza Klein noted in the article, the court evaluates each individual application for relief on a case-by-case basis within the legal framework. A low deportation rate is not a reflection of lax laws or judges, but rather a reflection of the fact that the court is obeying its mandate to treat each case with due attention.

Every court’s docket is different. That means while some states may have a preponderance of difficult to win asylum cases — like in border courts seeing cases based on gang or drug-cartel violence — other courts, like Boston’s, receive a mix of cases that are historically stronger.

— Susan Church, chair, New England Chapter American Immigration Lawyers Association, Boston