



**NAIJ Response to San Francisco Chronicle
Investigation into Sexual Harassment Allegations at EOIR
1/22/2021**

Statement by NAIJ Executive Vice-President and President *Emeritus* Dana Leigh Marks:

Sexual harassment cannot be tolerated or condoned in our nation's immigration courts. The practitioners and noncitizens who appear in immigration court must be treated fairly and professionally by judges, court staff, and everyone associated with the immigration courts.

It is unacceptable for anyone with a track record of inappropriate behavior to be protected and promoted. Because the immigration courts are part of a law enforcement agency, politics too often plays a role in the promotion and retention practices in the immigration court system. The creation of an independent Article I court will provide lasting protection against the politics that has plagued the immigration courts over the years. This is the only sustainable solution.

Moreover, NAIJ has been advocating for many years for a fair and improved process for practitioners and noncitizens to raise concerns about inappropriate conduct in the immigration courts. The current complaint process suffers from a complete lack of transparency which makes it difficult for practitioners to file complaints and judges to respond.

The nation's immigration courts are comprised of over 500 immigration judges throughout the country who serve with dedication, and professionally and appropriately handle thousands of cases every day.