

ATTACHMENT B

April 18, 2017

**Airport Attorney Coalition Letter: Signatories¹
In Support of Plaintiff-Appellees in *IRAP v. Trump***

To the Honorable Judges of the 4th Circuit:

We are 302 lawyers across 25 airports who witnessed firsthand the extreme disorder and chaos engendered by President Trump's initial travel ban at major airports across the country and the world. We write collectively to express our serious concerns regarding the second travel ban currently before the Court. The impact of these bans extends beyond the individual travelers and their families and communities. We expect that a second travel ban would follow in the footsteps of the first to 1) inappropriately interfere with the attorney-client relationship and 2) compromise our ability to advocate for our clients, with potentially severe and irreversible consequences.

In the wake of the implementation of the first ban, several things became clear to the attorneys who arrived at the airports to offer their assistance. First, there was utter confusion around how the ban would be executed, how it might

¹ To the extent organizations, corporations, or other entities are provided below by a signatory to this letter, this information is for identification purposes only, and not to attribute any opinion or stance to the affiliated organization.

affect different classes of travelers, and what rights those travelers might have under the ban. Second, this lack of clarity extended to both sides of the customs areas at each airport, as it became apparent that the Customs and Border Protection (“CBP”) officers tasked with enforcing the ban did not receive sufficient notice or training regarding how the executive order would be implemented in practice. Lastly, the ban's effects on travelers and their families were highly distressing, and the uncertainty as to whether families would be reunited was an excruciating one.

The effects of the first ban are widespread and continuing, as witnessed by volunteer lawyers still stationed at various airports. To this day, it is still unknown exactly how many travelers have been detained; for how long they were detained; if they were cuffed, denied medication, food, or representation; how many were forced to waive their rights or sign away their legal status; how many were denied passage to board flights bound for the United States in the first place; or if the decisions and actions of the CBP were appropriate or justified in each case. The inability to adequately advise our clients in potentially unlawful detention - or in some cases, to communicate with them at all - flies in the face of public policy, especially where lawful status may be signed away under duress.

The lack of transparency into CBP's practices and the potential for abuse of their discretion, paired with the failure of CBP officers across airports to adequately communicate with attorneys, caused chaos and instilled fear in the

community that has only been compounded by the issuing of the second travel ban.

We continue to receive frequent reports of United States citizens, Lawful Permanent Residents, and others with valid entry documents or ties to the United States fearful of scheduling travel or of having their families come to visit. We hear from individuals who are concerned that their travel might be disrupted if the current stay on the second travel ban is lifted, and apprehensions of being unable to reunite with family or return to courses of study in the United States. Many fear a forced return to countries where their lives may be in danger. These continuing effects have only been exacerbated by the community's reported understanding of the second travel ban to be part of the same overarching initiative that produced the first travel ban.

For all these reasons, we oppose Defendants' request for a stay of the narrow Preliminary Injunction imposed by the District Court.

Respectfully,

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