

**Elston, Michael (ODAG)**

---

**From:** Voris, Natalie (USAEO)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 02, 2006 6:59 PM  
**To:** Elston, Michael (ODAG); Goodling, Monica  
**Subject:** FW: Lam is meeting with Issa and Sensenbrenner

FYI

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Seidel, Rebecca  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 02, 2006 6:56 PM  
**To:** Epley, Mark D; Otis, Lee L; Bounds, Ryan W (OLP); Mullane, Hugh;  
Voris, Natalie (USAEO)  
**Cc:** Scott-Finan, Nancy; Roland, Sarah E  
**Subject:** FW: Lam is meeting with Issa and Sensenbrenner

Sounds like she handled well and it was actually constructive. See below.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Lam, Carol (USACAS)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 02, 2006 6:50 PM  
**To:** Seidel, Rebecca  
**Subject:** RE: Lam is meeting with Issa and Sensenbrenner

Sorry, meant to email you earlier but other events overtook me.

It was fine (at least I think it was). The tone was civil and at times even friendly. I was accompanied by my appellate chief Roger Haines and our Intake supervisor Steve Peak. Issa and Sensenbrenner had about 4 staffers there total. Chrm Sensenbrenner had a single theme he kept coming back to, which is that we aren't doing enough coyote prosecutions and that they are the key to controlling the border. (This is obviously the Border Patrol complaint that was channelled through Issa to Sensenbrenner). I noted that the first 3 times we prosecute a coyote, we get sentences of 60 days, 6 months, and maybe a year, respectively, if we are lucky; whereas the same attorney resources can be used to prosecute criminal aliens with priors for rape, murder and child molestations and we can get sentences of 7-8 years. We have more of the latter type of case than we can handle, so essentially I must make a choice -- prosecute the coyotes who are smuggling but not endangering anyone, or the rapists and murderers who are coming back to rape and murder again.

He noted that among the Southwest Border USAOs, our felony immigration filings are low. I explained that we set out a couple of years ago to deliberately seek higher sentences for the worst offenders; this meant more cases would go to trial, but we would hold the line and not sell the cases for less time. The statistics show that we have, in fact, achieved significantly higher average sentences in our immigration cases; the cost was that our immigration trial rate more than DOUBLED (from 42 trials in 2004 to 89 trials in 2005) and we had to reduce the number of low-end coyote cases we filed. Cong Issa seemed to grasp this concept quickly; he commented that it is too bad we don't have statistics that reflect the matrix of felony immigration filings against lengths of sentences.

We urged them to fully fund the President's budget; thanked Chrm Sensenbrenner for the enforcement provisions in his immigration bill; and some observations were exchanged about the difficulties of prosecuting cases in the 9th Circuit. Congressman Issa asked me how the 4 additional SW border AUSA positions (announced by the AG on Monday) would help me; I said that they would allow me to fill attorney

vacancies that I have had to leave vacant because of the budget situation. Issa noted to Sensenbrenner that he doesn't understand why their prior appropriations don't seem to be "trickling down" to the USAOs, and I interjected that the unfunded COLAs and government-wide rescissions were erasing what appeared to be additional appropriations.

That was about it. We left on very cordial terms without any request for follow-up information. Let me know if you need any additional information, and thanks for preparing me.

Carol

-----Original Message-----  
From: Seidel, Rebecca  
Sent: Wednesday, August 02, 2006 3:16 PM  
To: Lam, Carol (USACAS)  
Cc: Epley, Mark D  
Subject: RE: Lam is meeting with Issa and Sensenbrenner

How did the Issa/Sensenbrenner meeting go?

-----Original Message-----  
From: Lam, Carol (USACAS)  
Sent: Wednesday, August 02, 2006 11:53 AM  
To: Seidel, Rebecca; Parent, Steve (USAEO); Bevels, Lisa (USAEO); Voris, Natalie (USAEO)  
Cc: Jordan, Wyevetra G; Epley, Mark D  
Subject: RE: Lam is meeting with Issa and Sensenbrenner

Thanks, Steve; this helps. -- Carol

-----Original Message-----  
From: Parent, Steve (USAEO)  
Sent: Wednesday, August 02, 2006 5:24 AM  
To: Lam, Carol (USACAS); Seidel, Rebecca; Bevels, Lisa (USAEO); Voris, Natalie (USAEO)  
Cc: Epley, Mark D; Jordan, Wyevetra G  
Subject: Re: Lam is meeting with Issa and Sensenbrenner

The 29 percent figure is actual funded position increase from FY 2000 to present.

-----Original Message-----  
From: Lam, Carol (USACAS) <CLam@usa.doj.gov>  
To: Seidel, Rebecca <Rebecca.Seidel@usdoj.gov>; Parent, Steve (USAEO) <SParent@usa.doj.gov>; Bevels, Lisa (USAEO) <LBevels@usa.doj.gov>; Voris, Natalie (USAEO) <NVoris@usa.doj.gov>  
Cc: Epley, Mark D <Mark.D.Epley@usdoj.gov>; Jordan, Wyevetra G <Wyevetra.G.Jordan@usdoj.gov>  
Sent: Tue Aug 01 22:12:05 2006  
Subject: Re: Lam is meeting with Issa and Sensenbrenner

I assume nobody is taking credit for the 29% figure, and I'm on my own?

-----Original Message-----  
From: Seidel, Rebecca <Rebecca.Seidel@usdoj.gov>  
To: Parent, Steve (USAEO) <SParent@usa.doj.gov>; Bevels, Lisa (USAEO) <LBevels@usa.doj.gov>; Lam, Carol (USACAS) <CLam@usa.doj.gov>; Voris, Natalie (USAEO) <NVoris@usa.doj.gov>  
Cc: Epley, Mark D <Mark.D.Epley@usdoj.gov>; Jordan, Wyevetra G <Wyevetra.G.Jordan@usdoj.gov>  
Sent: Mon Jul 31 18:01:45 2006  
Subject: RE: Lam is meeting with Issa and Sensenbrenner