



U.S. Department of Justice

Executive Office for Immigration Review

Office of the General Counsel

5107 Leesburg Pike, Suite 2600
Falls Church, Virginia 22041

March 2, 2010

Ms. Eunice Lee, Esquire
Albert M. Sacks Clinical Teaching and Advocacy Fellow
Harvard Immigration and Refugee Clinical Program
Harvard Law School
1563 Massachusetts Avenue, Pound Hall 408
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138-2903

Dear Ms. Lee:

This is in response to your letter to Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr., dated January 27, 2010, in which you forward a letter of same date from Ms. Deborah Anker, Director of the Harvard Law School Immigration and Refugee Clinical Program. In her letter, Ms. Anker requests the Attorney General's certification and review of the precedent decision of *Matter of S-E-G-*, 24 I&N Dec. 579 (*S-E-G-*), which was decided by the Board of Immigration Appeal on July 30, 2008. See 8 C.F.R. § 1003.1(h)(1)(i). Ms. Anker made this request on behalf of various law professors and instructors and as *amici curiae* in support of the requests of Silvia Eulalia Gonzales Mira, Pablo Alejandro Gonzales Mira, and Rene Mauricio Mira. Your letter and the letter of Ms. Anker were forwarded to the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) for a response.

Although we understand the concerns raised in Ms. Anker's letter regarding the Board's decision in *S-E-G-*, the Attorney General has declined to refer the case for review under 8 C.F.R. § 1003.1(h)(1)(i), a decision which lies within his sole discretion. Please be assured that the United States Department of Justice has considered your concerns regarding "particular social group" claims to asylum and withholding of removal. We appreciate you contacting the Department and thank you for writing to the Attorney General about this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robin M. Stutman".

Robin M. Stutman
General Counsel

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