Topics for Dec. 1, 2011 Immigration Law Section Meeting

1. Has there been a recent change in policy in the way the good moral character requirements for naturalization have been applied? We have received several surprising denials for clients who have significant evidence of good moral character.
2. How should we attorneys handle an officer's refusal to accept relevant documents? I recently received a denial of an N-400 based on false testimony for not disclosing that he had been arrested (but not put into proceedings) by INS. We offered the interviewing officer documents relating to this and the criminal history of the person, but she declined to accept those documents, stating they were not needed, and after a very brief interview proceeded to deny the case.
3. Has the recent memo relating to USCIS' issuance of Notices to Appear affect how naturalization cases will be adjudicated?
4. How, if at all, has the Morton memo on prosecutorial discretion been implemented by Anchorage USCIS? For example, have there been any cases where USCIS Anchorage has not issued an NTA for a person whose case was denied and who is removable? What factors are most important to this office in deciding whether to exercise prosecutorial discretion?
5. It seems like the circuit ride schedule has changed from the 2011 Naturalization schedule we were given earlier this year. Can we be notified of these changes? When will we be able to get the 2012 schedule? What is the circuit ride schedule for the rest of 2011?
6. Can you provide the Anchorage Field Office's approval/denial rates for application types: N-400, N-336, I-130, I-485, I-601 (both ULP & fraud based), etc? How do these rates compare to the national average?
7. There still seems to be an issue with attorney's not receiving approval/denial notices. Some denials have associated deadlines for appeals and N-336 filings. How should we deal with this?
8. What is staff coverage going to be like through the holidays?
9. How are N-600s going to dealt with now that they have been centralized?