

City: Judge: Report Series:

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Judge Lori Adams FY 2020 - 2025*, New York Immigration Court

*data covers the first 11 months of fiscal year 2025

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Lori K. Adams was appointed as an Immigration Judge to begin hearing cases in October 2021. Judge Adams earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2000 from the University of Oregon and a Juris Doctor in 2004 from New York Law School. From 2018 to 2020, she was Director of the Immigration Intervention Project at Sanctuary for Families, in New York, NY. From 2011 to 2018, she was Managing Attorney at Human Rights First, in New York, NY. From 2006 to 2011, she was Staff Attorney at Human Rights First, in New York, NY. From 2004 to 2006, she served as Judicial Law Clerk, then Attorney Advisor, at the Executive Office for Immigration Review, Department of Justice, entering on duty through the Attorney General's Honors Program and serving at the New York – Federal Plaza Immigration Court. Judge Adams is a member of the New Jersey State Bar and New York State Bar.

Deciding Asylum Cases

Detailed data on decisions by Judge Adams were examined for the period covering fiscal years 2020 through the first 11 months of 2025. During this period, court records show that Judge Adams decided 661 asylum claims on their merits. Of these, she granted asylum for 580, granted 9 other types of relief, and denied relief to 72. Converted to percentage terms, Adams denied 10.9 percent and granted 89.1 percent of asylum cases (including forms of relief other than asylum).

Figure 1 provides a comparison of Judge Adams's denial rate each fiscal year over this recent period. (Rates for years with less than 25 decisions are not shown.)

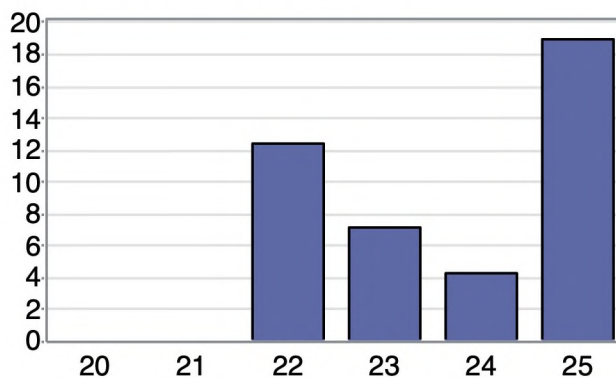


Figure 1: Percent of Asylum Matters Denied

Nationwide Comparisons

Compared to Judge Adams's denial rate of 10.9 percent, Immigration Court judges across the country denied 58.9 percent of asylum claims during this same period. Judges at the New York Immigration Court where Judge Adams decided these cases denied asylum 39 percent of the time. See Figure 2.

Judge Adams's asylum grant and denial rates are compared with other judges serving on the same court [in this table](#). Note that when an Immigration Judge serves on more than one court during the same period, separate Immigration Judge reports are created for any Court in which the judge rendered at least 100 asylum decisions.

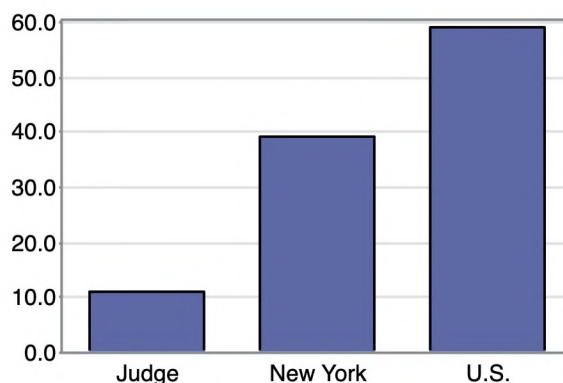


Figure 2: Comparing Denial Rates (percents)

Why Do Denial Rates Vary Among Judges?

Although denial rates are shaped by each Judge's judicial philosophy, denial rates are also shaped by other factors, such as the types of cases on the Judge's docket, the detained status of immigrant respondents, current immigration policies, and other factors beyond an individual Judge's control. For example, TRAC has previously found that legal representation and the nationality of the asylum seeker are just two factors that appear to impact asylum decision outcomes.

The composition of cases may differ significantly between Immigration Courts in the country. Within a single Court when cases are randomly assigned to judges sitting on that Court, each Judge should have roughly a similar composition of cases given a sufficient number of asylum cases. Then variations in asylum decisions among Judges on the same Immigration Court would appear to reflect, at least in part, the judicial philosophy that the Judge brings to the bench. However, if judges within a Court are assigned to specialized dockets or hearing locations, then case compositions are likely to continue to differ and can contribute to differences in asylum denial rates.

Representation

When asylum seekers are not represented by an attorney, almost all of them (77%) are denied asylum. In contrast, a significantly higher proportion of represented asylum seekers are successful. In the case of Judge Adams, 3.2% were not represented by an attorney. See Figure 3. For the nation as a whole, about 17.1% of asylum seekers are not represented.

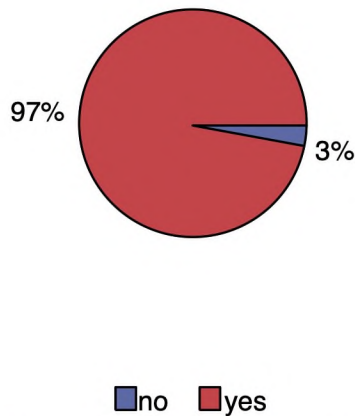


Figure 3: Asylum Seeker Had Representation

Nationality

Asylum seekers are a diverse group. Over one hundred different nationalities had at least one hundred individuals claiming asylum decided during this period. As might be expected, immigration courts located in different parts of the country tend to have proportionately larger shares from some countries than from others. And, given the required legal grounds for a successful asylum claim, asylum seekers from some nations tend to be more successful than others.

The largest group of asylum seekers appearing before Judge Adams came from China. Individuals from this country made up 15.5% of her caseload. Other nationalities in descending order of frequency appearing before Judge Adams were: India (11.5%), Honduras (9.8%), Bangladesh (7.3%), El Salvador (7.0%). See Figure 4.

In the nation as a whole during this same period, major nationalities of asylum seekers, in descending order of frequency, were Honduras (11.2%), Guatemala (11.2%), El Salvador (10.9%), Mexico (8.2%), China (5.2%), Venezuela (5.2%), India (5.1%), Ecuador (4.5%), Nicaragua (4.4%), Colombia (4.4%), Brazil (3.1%), Russia (3.1%), Cuba (2.8%).

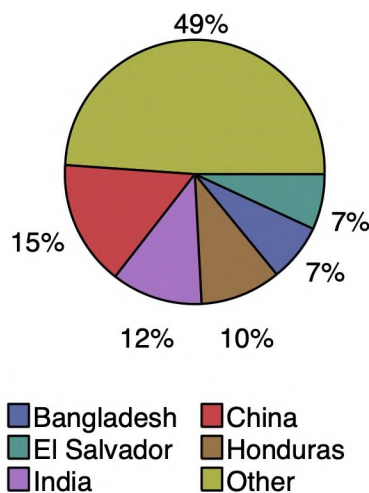


Figure 4: Asylum Decisions by Nationality



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