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REDRESS

Govt. Won't Seek Reconsideration of Recent Decisions

The Justice Department advises ORA to reconsider all previously-denied redress claims of children of "voluntary evacuees."

The United States government will not seek reconsideration of the recent federal Court of Appeals decisions awarding redress to the children of "voluntary evacuees," *Consolo v. U.S.* and *Ishida v. U.S.*

On Aug. 4, Department of Justice attorneys Paul Padda and Nuriye Uygur advised attorney Gerald Sato of the government's decision, and that the government will cooperate in concluding all pending lawsuits brought by children of "voluntary evacuees."

Padda had been representing the government in the U.S. Court of Federal Claims in the case of *Arlene Matsuoka v. U.S.* and Uygur in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in the appeal of *Grace Watanabe v. U.S.* (Watanabe's parents had been interned at Poston, Ariz.; the plaintiff was born after the parents' release on "indefinite leave" from the relocation camp).

At a recent status conference in the Matsuoka case, Judge John Wiese, who had earlier agreed with Sato, Matsuoka's attorney, that redress should be awarded, strongly urged the government not to seek further reconsideration of the Ishida and Consolo cases. He stated that one would "rather fly into the face of a hurricane than seek reconsideration of these decisions."

Earlier, on July 24, the last day in which the government could have requested reconsideration of the Consolo decision, the appellate section of the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division advised the Office of Redress Administration to reconsider all previously-denied redress claims of children of "voluntary evacuees" in light of the Ishida and Consolo decisions.

In the Consolo case, Judge James Turner has requested further legal argument on whether attorney's fees should be awarded. Linda Consolo's attorney, Sato, had previously advised the court that any sums awarded will be donated to the legal scholarship funds of the Japanese American Bar Association (JABA) in Los Angeles.

For more information, call Sato at (805) 495-5533.