Asylum Interview Procedures:

1. Security Screening
2. Check-In w/ relevant official by submitting interview notice to staff
3. Can request specific gender of officer-see AILA Asylum Office Guide-Best Practices for how to make such a request, see Doc. No. 120608444
4. Can turn in supplemental evidence day of, but ideally submit a week (or at least a day) in advance
5. Verify that fingerprints were completed-does he/she have stamped notice?
6. Will complete Record of Applicant and Interpreter Oath forms while waiting in the waiting room
7. Officer will request identity documents at the beginning of the interview from applicant, interpreter, and representative. Representative will often have to present their license.
8. Then officer will place applicant and interpreter under oath
9. Attorney can potentially ask follow up questions at the end of the interview and then give closing statement/comments, may grant an extension to submit add’l evidence
10. Asylum Officer will begin the interview by verifying the accuracy of the information in the first four pages of the I-589.
11. Then the officer will ask more substantive questions. Officer will type responses to questions, to use the information in his or her assessment.
12. After getting info re: basis of claim, officer will then ask a series of questions to see if any inadmissibility grounds apply. Go through these. If the officer notices inconsistencies, he should confront the interviewee during the interview and give him the opportunity to respond.

Stress importance of (1) always telling the truth, (2) consistency, (3) providing detailed answers, (4) notifying the officer if you don’t understand a question or need the officer to repeat a question, and (5) saying I don’t know or I don’t remember instead of guessing.

At the end of the interview, officer will review and explain any corrections or additions to the I-589 and sign it with the applicant. The officer will NOT issue a decision on the same day of the interview, but will either let the applicant know when to return to pick up their decision or will send it by mail. Decision is supposed to be made w/in 180 days of interview, but that doesn’t always happen.

Approval or referral-explain next steps