

### NATIONAL

#### Courts

- **Obama request for expedited stay of Texas court injunction is denied** ([The Hill](#))

On 3/12/15, the Obama administration asked the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals to overturn the Texas court order that halted forward motion on the President's executive actions on immigration. In its request, the administration asked for a ruling within 14 days, a comparatively short amount of time, and also proposed that states respond within seven days. On 3/13/15, the Court denied the request, allowing states to respond within the conventional 10-day response time.

- **14 states file an amicus brief with Court of Appeals in support of stay request** ([Brief](#))

Led by the state of Washington, 14 states have filed a "friend of the court" brief in support of the President's request to stay the Texas court injunction halting his executive actions on immigration. These are the states on the brief: California, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawai'i, Illinois, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island and Vermont. The District of Columbia also signed the brief.

- **Opinions on Texas judge differ**

The Texas judge who singlehandedly halted forward motion on Obama's executive actions on immigration has a [reputation for fairness](#), but has, at the same time, been accused of going too far in [his commentary about the administration's immigration policies](#).

- **Obama administration braces for 3/19 hearing regarding applications accepted before 2/18**

The 26 states suing the President expressed concern over the government's disclosure that it had considered applications for deferred action before its announced application acceptance date of February 18, 2015. The applications that were accepted prior to 2/18 related to the DACA expansion component that would change the duration of deferred action grants from two to three years ([ABC News](#)).

#### Congress

- **When will AG nominee Loretta Lynch be confirmed?**

Given that the AG has ultimate oversight for the major parts of the immigration bureaucracy (including the [immigration courts](#), see 1/19/15 *Policy Corner*, p. 1) and would influence the implementation of the President's executive actions on immigration, [Loretta Lynch's](#) potential nomination by the Senate has major political implications. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has said [he will not schedule a vote for Lynch](#) until a human trafficking bill passes the chamber, and some Republicans have [raised questions about her political independence](#). Not since 1985 has an AG nominee waited so long for confirmation.

- **Birthright citizenship under threat?**

The 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the US Constitution grants individuals born in the United States US citizenship. As recently as 2007, [members of the Georgia Legislature proposed that Congress act to remove the benefit](#) while at the same time extending relief to undocumented immigrants with US citizen relatives. Birthright citizenship (or jus soli citizenship) is [strongest and most prominent in the Americas](#), with [a much weaker set of jus soli laws extant among European countries](#). Congressional challenges to [US birthright citizenship occurred in 2010](#) and [are emerging again in 2015](#).

### STATE AND LOCAL

- **In-state tuition for DREAMERS**

[SB 44](#) will not pass this year, having never left the Senate Higher Education Committee. Watch for next session.

- **No licenses for DREAMERS**

[SB 6](#) will not pass this year, having never left the Senate Public Safety Committee. Watch for next session.

- **Exemptions to driver's license requirements for certain foreign nationals**

[HB 260](#) will not pass this year. Watch for next session. Bill may interact with SB 6 and could be an attempt to avoid situations where important executives have been pulled over and arrested for minor traffic offenses. See *Policy Corner*, week of 2/9/15, p. 2.

- **Improving immigrant access to public services**

[HB 137](#) will not pass this year, watch for next session.

- **Expanded scholarship program for certain refugees**

[HB 296](#) is still alive with high likelihood of passage.

### INTERNATIONAL

- **Unaccompanied Cen. Am. children: Not in the headlines, not forgotten, part of global trend**

Although news of [last summer's surge of Central American children](#) has largely slipped from the headlines, the [underlying dynamics](#) of why children flee still exist, and [many of them are still caught in a legal limbo](#). Until recently, the [US was able to legally continue its practice of detaining mothers and children who sought asylum](#). Last summer's surge of children to the border was part of an increasing global trend of forced displacement. The UN's Refugee Agency reported that global forced displacement [topped 50 million individuals for the first time since World War II](#). (UN figures, next page.)



