

What to Expect: A General Timeline for Your Case

The Treviño Law Firm, PLLC

Clients often ask "how long will my case take?" The honest answer is that it depends — mostly on two things we want to be upfront about from the start.

The two things that drive your timeline

- How quickly you get us your documents once you retain us. Our Documentation Checklist by Case Type is the biggest lever you have — the sooner we have what we need, the sooner your case moves.
- The court's or agency's own calendar. Immigration Court, USCIS, and the BIA set their own schedules based on their caseload, not ours. We cannot make a court move faster or an officer schedule an interview sooner — we can only make sure your case is ready the moment they do.

Because of this, the stages below are given as general patterns, not promises. Your attorney or staff will tell you where your specific case stands at any point — ask any time.

Removal Defense Cases (42B Cancellation, Asylum / Withholding / CAT)

- Filing — we file your application(s) and supporting pleadings with the Immigration Court.
- Evidence and briefing deadlines — the court sets deadlines for submitting evidence and legal briefs ahead of your hearing.
- Individual (Merits) Hearing — scheduled entirely by the court. Depending on the court's docket, this can be months to well over a year after filing.
- Decision — sometimes given the same day as the hearing, sometimes issued later in writing.
- If unfavorable: a strict 30-day deadline to appeal to the BIA — we discuss this with you immediately if it applies.

Habeas Corpus (Federal Court)

- Filing the petition in federal district court.
- Government response — typically due around 60 days after filing, though extensions are common.
- Possible reply and ruling — timing varies significantly by judge and court, from weeks to several months.

Bond

This is the fastest-moving matter we handle. A bond motion is typically set for a hearing within days to a couple of weeks, and a decision is usually given the same day as the hearing.

BIA Appeals and Motions to Reopen/Reconsider

- These are decided on the written record — there is usually no new hearing.
- Notice of Appeal deadline: a strict 30 days from the Immigration Judge's decision.
- The BIA sets its own briefing schedule; a final decision can take a year or more, depending on the BIA's caseload.

USCIS Petition-Based Cases (I-130, Adjustment of Status, Naturalization, I-751, N-600, DACA/TPS, Waiver, Consular Processing)

- Receipt notice — usually within 2 to 4 weeks of filing.
- Biometrics appointment — usually within 4 to 8 weeks of filing, where required.



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- Request for Evidence (RFE), if issued — this can add several months while we prepare and submit the response.
 - Interview, if required — timing varies widely by field office or consulate and by category; current USCIS processing times change often and we'll give you the most current estimate for your case type when we have it.
 - Decision.

VAWA and U-Visa

These follow the general USCIS pattern above, with one major difference: U-Visas are subject to an annual numerical cap, and current wait times for U-Visa approval can run several years due to a national backlog — this is outside anyone's control, including ours. We'll keep you updated on any change in the backlog that affects your case.

If you're ever unsure where your case stands, don't wait for us to reach out — ask. See your Office Hours and Contact Information and Telephone Policy documents, or message us through the CampLegal app.