

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
BEFORE THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

In re:	)	[Civil Rights]
	)	Docket No. <b>13-0324</b>
Eddie Slaughter	)	
	)	
Petitioner	)	<b>Decision and Order</b>

Appearances:

Eddie Slaughter, representing himself (appearing *pro se*), Petitioner; and

J. Carlos Alarcon, Esq., with the Office of the General Counsel (Civil Rights, Labor and Employment Law Division), United States Department of Agriculture, for the Respondent.<sup>1</sup>

**Decision Summary**

1. I decide that Administrative Law Judges have no authority to grant the relief requested; accordingly, the Petition must be denied.

**Findings of Fact**

2. Eddie Slaughter, the Petitioner (“Petitioner Slaughter”), is an individual with a mailing address in Georgia.

3. Petitioner Slaughter requests a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge, asserting that he has discrimination claims that have never been resolved by the USDA

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1. The Respondent is the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (Dr. Joe Leonard, Jr.), United States Department of Agriculture.

(United States Department of Agriculture), including but not limited to claims under the Equal Credit Opportunity Act.

4. The Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, through Mr. Alarcon (*see* Agency Proposal filed September 19, 2013), correctly states that Petitioner Slaughter's claims cannot be addressed by an Administrative Law Judge; the Administrative Law Judges do not have authority to hear and decide such claims.

5. Neither the provisions of the Rules of Practice (*see*, for example, 7 C.F.R. § 1.131); nor the Secretary of Agriculture's delegations of authority to the Office of Administrative Law Judges (*see*, for example, 7 C.F.R. § 2.27); nor any other delegations of authority, statutory or otherwise, of which I am aware, confers upon Administrative Law Judges jurisdiction to hear and decide the civil rights issues raised by Petitioner Slaughter.

#### **Conclusion**

6. The relief requested by Petitioner Slaughter cannot be granted.

#### **Order**

7. Petitioner Slaughter's request must be and hereby is denied.

#### **Finality**

8. This Decision shall be final and effective thirty five (35) days after service, unless an appeal to the Judicial Officer is filed with the Hearing Clerk within thirty (30) days after service. Copies of this Decision and Order shall be served by the Hearing Clerk upon each of the parties.

Done at Washington, D.C.  
this 29<sup>th</sup> day of October 2013

s/ Jill S. Clifton

Jill S. Clifton  
Administrative Law Judge

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