



Applicant's appeal brief contains no specific assertion of harmful error on the part of the Judge<sup>1</sup>. It does contain his interpretation of the case in mitigation.

The Appeal Board's authority to review a case is limited to cases in which the appealing party has alleged the Judge committed harmful error. *See* Directive ¶ E3.1.32. Applicant has not made an allegation of harmful error. Applicant's discussion of his case in mitigation has not demonstrated error. A party's disagreement with the Judge's weighing of the evidence or an ability to argue for an alternative interpretation of the evidence is not sufficient to demonstrate error. *See, e.g.*, ISCR Case No. 06-19233 at 2 (App. Bd. Feb. 28, 2008). The Board does not review cases *de novo*. Therefore, the decision of the Judge denying Applicant a security clearance is AFFIRMED.

Signed: Michael Y. Ra'anan

Michael Y. Ra'anan  
Administrative Judge  
Chairperson, Appeal Board

Signed: William S. Fields

William S. Fields  
Administrative Judge  
Member, Appeal Board

Signed: James E. Moody

James E. Moody  
Administrative Judge  
Member, Appeal Board

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<sup>1</sup>Applicant's brief opens with the following language: "I want to first submit that Judge Carol G. Ricciardello did not necessarily do anything wrong that changed the outcome of my case."