



U.S. Department of Justice
Executive Office for Immigration Review
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NOTICE

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Executive Office for Immigration Review Swears in 16 Immigration Judges

FALLS CHURCH, VA – The Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) announced the investiture of 16 new immigration judges. Principal Deputy Chief Immigration Judge Christopher A. Santoro presided over the investiture during a ceremony held Nov. 16, 2018, at the Department of Justice's Great Hall in Washington, D.C.

After a thorough application process, then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions appointed Susan M. Beschta, Sarah M. Ellison, Mark S. Evans, Kelley N. Fowler, Scott D. Gambill, Renea Maree Hansell-Barton, Kelly Scot Johnson, Daniel P. Kinnicutt, Lisa W. Ling, Daniel H. Malvin, Ann M. McDermott, Robert B.C. McSeveney, Lindsay M. Roberts, Billy J. Sapp, Christopher J. Thielemann, and Robert Quincy Ward to their new positions.

Biographical information follows.

Susan M. Beschta, Immigration Judge, New York City Immigration Court

Then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions appointed Susan M. Beschta to begin hearing cases in November 2018. Judge Beschta earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1976 from Pratt Institute and a Juris Doctor in 1989 from the City University of New York School of Law. From 2002 to 2018, she served as an assistant chief counsel and deputy chief counsel with the Office of the Chief Counsel, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, in New York, New York. From 2000 to 2002, she was an associate with Bretz & Coven LLP, in New York. From 1991 to 2000, she was a staff attorney and later a senior attorney with Immigration and Refugee Services for Catholic Charities, in New York. Judge Beschta is a member of the New York State Bar.

Sarah M. Ellison, Immigration Judge, Fort Worth Immigration Adjudication Center

Then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions appointed Sarah M. Ellison to begin hearing cases in November 2018. Judge Ellison earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2006 from the University of Mary Washington and a Juris Doctor in 2009 from St. Mary's University School of Law. From 2017 to 2018, she served as an assistant chief counsel with the Office of the Chief Counsel, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, in Pearsall, Texas. From 2014 to 2017, she served as an assistant U.S. attorney with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Texas, Department of Justice, in Laredo, Texas. From 2010 to 2014, she served as an assistant district attorney with the District Attorney's Office, Bexar County, in San Antonio, Texas. From 2009 to 2010, she was an associate attorney with the Law Office of Steven C. Benke, in San Antonio. Judge Ellison is a member of the State Bar of Texas.

Mark S. Evans, Immigration Judge, Conroe Immigration Court

Then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions appointed Mark S. Evans to begin hearing cases in November 2018. Judge Evans earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1982 from the University of Texas at Arlington and a Juris Doctor in 1987 from the University of Houston Law Center. From 1997 to 2018, he served as an assistant chief counsel, senior attorney, and deputy chief counsel with the Office of the Chief Counsel, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, in Houston. From 1996 to 1997, he served as assistant district attorney with the Fort Bend County District Attorney's Office in Richmond, Texas. From 1994 to 1996, he was an attorney in private practice, in Houston. From 1991 to 1994, he was an attorney with Driscoll and Lacey, in Houston. From 1987 to 1991, he served as an assistant district attorney with the Harris County District Attorney's Office, in Houston. Judge Evans is a member of the State Bar of Texas.

Kelley N. Fowler, Immigration Judge, Fort Worth Immigration Adjudication Center

Then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions appointed Kelley N. Fowler to begin hearing cases in November 2018. Judge Fowler earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2002 from the University of Alabama and a Juris Doctor in 2005 from Vanderbilt University Law School. From 2017 to 2018, she served as a special assistant U.S. attorney with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia, in Atlanta. From 2008 to 2017, she served as an assistant chief counsel with the Office of the Chief Counsel, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, in Atlanta. From 2007 to 2008, she was an associate with Merritt, Flebotte, Wilson, Webb, and Caruso PLLC, in Brentwood, Tennessee. From 2006 to 2007, she was an associate with Reina and Associates, in Dallas, Texas. Judge Fowler is a member of the Tennessee Bar.

Scott D. Gambill, Immigration Judge, San Francisco Immigration Court

Then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions appointed Scott D. Gambill to begin hearing cases in November 2018. Judge Gambill earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1979 from Washington State University and a Juris Doctor in 1999 from Gonzaga University School of Law. From 2008 to 2018, he served as an assistant chief counsel with the Office of the Chief Counsel, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, in San Francisco. From 2004 to 2008, he was a staff attorney with the Northwest Justice Project in Spokane, Washington. From 1999 to 2004, he was a staff attorney with Columbia Legal Services, in Spokane. Judge Gambill is a member of the Washington State Bar.

Renea Maree Hansell-Barton, Immigration Judge, Memphis Immigration Court

Then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions appointed Renea Maree Hansell-Barton to begin hearing cases in November 2018. Judge Hansell-Barton earned a Bachelor of Science in 2000 from Armstrong Atlantic State University and a Juris Doctor in 2003 from Georgia State University College of Law. From 2003 to 2018, she served as a law clerk, senior attorney, assistant chief counsel, and deputy chief counsel with the Office of the Chief Counsel, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, in Atlanta and Memphis, Tennessee. Judge Hansell-Barton is a member of the State Bar of Georgia.

Kelly Scot Johnson, Immigration Judge, Louisville Immigration Court

Then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions appointed Kelly Scot Johnson to begin hearing cases in November 2018. Judge Johnson earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1996 from the University of Missouri and a Juris Doctor in 2000 from the University of Tennessee College of Law. From 2012 to 2018, he served as an assistant chief counsel and deputy chief counsel with the Office of the Chief Counsel, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), in Lumpkin, Georgia. From 2010 to 2012, he served as an assistant chief counsel with ICE, DHS, in Port Isabel, Texas. From 2001 to 2010, he was an attorney in private practice, in Knoxville, Tennessee. Judge Johnson is a member of the Tennessee Bar.

Daniel P. Kinnicutt, Immigration Judge, Louisville Immigration Court

Then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions appointed Daniel P. Kinnicutt to begin hearing cases in November 2018. Judge Kinnicutt earned a Bachelor of Science in 1989 from Pepperdine University and a Juris Doctor in 1994 from Seattle University School of Law. From 2005 to 2018, he served as an assistant U.S. attorney with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Kentucky, Department of Justice (DOJ), in Louisville, Kentucky. From 2003 to 2005, he served as an assistant U.S. attorney with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Texas, DOJ, in Del Rio, Texas. In 2003, he served as an assistant U.S. attorney with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona, DOJ, in Tucson, Arizona. From 1999 to 2003, he served as an assistant U.S. attorney with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Texas, DOJ, in Del Rio. From 1994 to 1999, he served as deputy prosecuting attorney for the Pierce County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, in Tacoma, Washington. Judge Kinnicutt is a member of the Washington State Bar.

Lisa W. Ling, Immigration Judge, New York City Immigration Court

Then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions appointed Lisa W. Ling to begin hearing cases in November 2018. Judge Ling earned a Bachelor of Science in 2003 from Boston College and a Juris Doctor in 2007 from New York Law School. From 2008 to 2018, she served as an assistant chief counsel with the Office of Chief Counsel, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, in New York, New York. In 2007, she entered on duty as a judicial law clerk through the Attorney General's Honors Program, Executive Office for Immigration Review, Department of Justice, in Los Angeles. Judge Ling is a member of the New York State Bar.

Daniel H. Malvin, Immigration Judge, Los Angeles Immigration Court

Then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions appointed Daniel H. Malvin to begin hearing cases in November 2018. Judge Malvin earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1989 from California State University, Northridge, and a Juris Doctor in 1993 from Loyola Law School. From 2016 to 2018, he served as a supervisory administrative law judge with the Office of Medicare Hearings and Appeals, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, in Kansas City, Missouri. From 2006 to 2016, he served as an assistant chief counsel with the Office of the Chief Counsel, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, in El Centro, and Los Angeles, California. During that time, from 2012 to 2015, he served as a special assistant U.S. attorney with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Central District of California, in Los Angeles. From 2004 to 2006, he was an attorney in private practice, in Los Angeles. From 2003 to 2004, he was an attorney with the Law Offices of Michael J. Gurfinkle, in Glendale, California. From 1996 to 2003, he was an attorney with the Law Offices of John C. Nelson, in Newport Beach, California. From 1993 to 1996, he was an attorney in private practice, in Pasadena, California. Judge Malvin is a member of the State Bar of California.

Ann M. McDermott, Immigration Judge, Las Vegas Immigration Court

Then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions appointed Ann M. McDermott to begin hearing cases in November 2018. Judge McDermott earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1988 from Central Michigan University and a Juris Doctor in 2002 from Gonzaga University School of Law. From 2009 to 2018, she served as senior deputy attorney general, chief deputy attorney general, and litigation bureau chief with the Nevada Office of the Attorney General, in Las Vegas. From 2007 to 2009, she was the head administrator for the Real Estate Division of the State of Nevada, in Las Vegas. From 2005 to 2007, she served as a deputy attorney for injured workers for the State of Nevada, in Las Vegas. In 2005, she was a managing attorney with Kimball, Tirev & St. John, in Las Vegas. In 2004, she was in-house counsel for Abbey Dental Center, in Las Vegas. From 2003 to 2004, she was an associate with Mayor, Horner & Stryker Ltd., in Las Vegas. Judge McDermott is a member of the State Bar of Nevada.

Robert B.C. McSeveney, Immigration Judge, Seattle Immigration Court

Then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions appointed Robert B.C. McSeveney to begin hearing cases in November 2018. Judge McSeveney earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1980 from Seattle University and a Juris Doctor in 1984 from the University of Puget Sound Law School. In 2018, he served as a superior court judge for the Chelan County Superior Court, in Washington. From 2011 to 2017, he served as an immigration judge for the Executive Office for Immigration Review, Department of Justice, in San Diego. From 1994 to 2011, he served as a municipal court judge for the City of Kent, in Washington. From 1988 to 1994, he was an attorney in private practice, in Bellevue, Washington. From 1985 to 1988, he was a deputy prosecuting attorney and assistant city attorney for the City of Bellevue, in Washington. Judge McSeveney is a member of the Washington State Bar.

Lindsay M. Roberts, Immigration Judge, Las Vegas Immigration Court

Then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions appointed Lindsay M. Roberts to begin hearing cases in November 2018. Judge Roberts earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2000 from Washington and Jefferson College and a Juris Doctor in 2003 from the Washington and Lee University School of Law. From 2015 to 2018, she served as an assistant U.S. attorney with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Nevada, Department of Justice, in Las Vegas. From 2004 to 2015, she was an associate attorney and principal attorney with Goodman, Allen & Filetti PLLC, in Norfolk, Virginia. Judge Roberts is a member of the Virginia State Bar.

Billy J. Sapp, Immigration Judge, Conroe Immigration Court

Then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions appointed Billy J. Sapp to begin hearing cases in November 2018. Judge Sapp earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1997 from Emory University and a Juris Doctor in 2001 from the University of Houston Law Center. From 2002 to 2018, he served as an assistant chief counsel and senior attorney with the Office of the Chief Counsel, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, in Baltimore. Judge Sapp is a member of the State Bar of Texas.

Christopher J. Thielemann, Immigration Judge, Fort Worth Adjudication Center

Then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions appointed Christopher J. Thielemann to begin hearing cases in November 2018. Judge Thielemann earned a Bachelor of Science in 1994 from Georgia Southern University, a Juris Doctor in 2002 from Florida State University College of Law, and a Master of Laws in 2009 from the Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School. From 2015 to 2018, he served as an assistant U.S. attorney with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Florida, Department of Justice, in Tallahassee. From 2002 to 2015, he served as a judge advocate with the U.S. Marine Corps in the following locations: Camp Pendleton, California; Horn of Africa, Djibouti; and Camp Butler, Okinawa, Japan. Judge Thielemann is a member of the Florida Bar.

Robert Quincy Ward, Immigration Judge, Louisville Immigration Court

Then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions appointed Robert Quincy Ward to begin hearing cases in November 2018. Judge Ward earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1990 from Centre College and a Juris Doctor in 1994 from the University of Louisville, Brandeis School of Law. From 2017 to 2018, he served as an executive advisor for the Office of Legal Services, Public Protection Cabinet, Commonwealth of Kentucky, in Frankfort, Kentucky. From 2015 to 2017, he was a litigation attorney with Schiller Barnes Maloney PLLC, in Louisville, Kentucky. From 1995 to 2015, he served as an attorney with the U.S. Marine Corps in the following locations: District of Columbia; Camp Lejeune, North Carolina; and Arlington, Virginia. Judge Ward is a member of the Kentucky Bar.

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