



U.S. Department of Justice
Executive Office for Immigration Review
Office of the Director
5107 Leesburg Pike, Suite 2600
Falls Church, Virginia 22041

NEWS RELEASE

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Nov. 8, 2010

The Executive Office for Immigration Review Swears in 23 New Immigration Judges Judge Corps Reaches 262 Serving in 59 Immigration Courts

FALLS CHURCH, Va. – Acting Deputy Attorney General Gary Grindler invested 23 new immigration judges during a ceremony held at the Executive Office for Immigration Review's (EOIR) headquarters on Nov. 5, 2010.

Attorney General Eric Holder appointed Silvia R. Arellano, Jerry A. Beatmann Sr., Jesse B. Christensen, Steven J. Connelly, Philip J. Costa, V. Stuart Couch, Thomas G. Crossan Jr., Leo A. Finston, Saul Greenstein, Amy C. Hoogasian, Stuart F. Karden, F. James Loprest Jr., Lisa Luis, Joren Lyons, H. Kevin Mart, Sheila McNulty, Maureen S. O'Sullivan, Daniel J. Santander, Alice Segal, Andrea H. Sloan, Dan Trimble, Eileen R. Trujillo, Clarence M. Wagner Jr., and Virna A. Wright to these important public service positions. Andrea H. Sloan entered on duty on Oct. 24, 2010, but was unable to attend Friday's ceremony.

"We have made great progress since we began our robust immigration judge hiring initiative earlier this year," said Chief Immigration Judge Brian M. O'Leary. "These new immigration judges bring the judge corps of our 59 immigration courts to 262, and we expect to further enhance the corps by additional immigration judges before the end of the calendar year."

The hiring process for most of these new immigration judges began in December 2009. After initial screening, EOIR's human resources section referred 1,782 applications to the Office of the Chief Immigration Judge. Four panels of assistant chief immigration judges screened the applications for the following criteria: ability to demonstrate the appropriate temperament to serve as a judge; knowledge of immigration laws and procedures; substantial litigation experience, preferably in a high-volume context; experience handling complex legal issues; experience conducting administrative hearings; and knowledge of judicial practices and procedures. The most highly recommended candidates were selected for interviews. Top

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candidates were then referred for a second review and interview by a panel of senior Department of Justice officials. The Attorney General made the final selections.

The new immigration judges will preside in the immigration courts in Florence, Ariz.; Los Angeles and San Francisco, Calif.; Denver, Colo.; Miami and Orlando, Fla.; Lumpkin, Ga.; Honolulu, Hawaii; Chicago, Ill.; Oakdale, La.; Charlotte, N.C.; Newark, N.J.; Batavia and New York, N.Y.; Portland, Ore.; and Houston and Pearsall, Texas. To view their biographies, please visit <http://www.justice.gov/eoir/press/2010/IJInvestitureBiographies11052010.pdf>.

— EOIR —

The Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) is an agency within the Department of Justice. Under delegated authority from the Attorney General, immigration judges and the Board of Immigration Appeals interpret and adjudicate immigration cases according to United States immigration laws. EOIR's immigration judges conduct administrative court proceedings in immigration courts located throughout the nation. They determine whether foreign-born individuals — whom the Department of Homeland Security charges with violating immigration law — should be ordered removed from the United States or should be granted relief from removal and be permitted to remain in this country. The Board of Immigration Appeals primarily reviews appeals of decisions by immigration judges. EOIR's Office of the Chief Administrative Hearing Officer adjudicates immigration-related employment cases. EOIR is committed to ensuring fairness in all of the cases it adjudicates.



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The Executive Office for Immigration Review Welcomes 24 New Immigration Judges Biographies of the New Immigration Judges

Silvia R. Arellano, Immigration Judge, Florence Immigration Court

Attorney General Eric Holder appointed Judge Arellano in October 2010. Judge Arellano received a bachelor of arts degree in 1974 and a juris doctorate in 1978, both from Arizona State University. From 1990 to October 2010, she served as a judge for the Maricopa County Superior Court, Phoenix, Ariz. From January 1990 to July 1990, Judge Arellano was a special assistant attorney general, State of Arizona, Office of the Attorney General, Phoenix. From 1981 to 1984, she was a chief administrative law judge, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Phoenix. From 1978 to 1981, she was in private practice in Phoenix. Judge Arellano is a member of the State Bar of Arizona.

Jerry A. Beatmann Sr., Immigration Judge, Oakdale Immigration Court

Attorney General Eric Holder appointed Judge Beatmann in October 2010. Judge Beatmann received a bachelor of science degree in 1984 from the University of New Orleans and a juris doctorate in 1988 from Loyola University School of Law. From 1994 to October 2010, he worked as an assistant chief counsel, Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Oakdale, La. From 1993 to 1994, Judge Beatmann was in private practice. From 1988 to 1993, he was an attorney with Simon, Peragine, Smith & Redfearn in Louisiana. Judge Beatmann is a member of the Louisiana State Bar.

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Jesse B. Christensen, Immigration Judge, New York Immigration Court

Attorney General Eric Holder appointed Judge Christensen in October 2010. Judge Christensen received a bachelor of arts degree in 1997 from the University of Colorado at Boulder and a juris doctorate in 2000 from the University of Iowa College of Law. From 2006 to October 2010, he worked as a supervisor in the immigration unit of the Staff Attorneys' Office, U.S. Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit. From 2005 to 2006, Judge Christensen taught legal writing at American University's Washington College of Law. From 2002 to 2005, Judge Christensen was an attorney at the Federal Election Commission. From 2001 to 2002, he was in private practice in Chicago. Judge Christensen is a member of the Illinois and New York State Bars and the District of Columbia Bar.

Steven J. Connelly, Immigration Judge, Batavia Immigration Court

Attorney General Eric Holder appointed Judge Connelly in October 2010. Judge Connelly received a bachelor of arts degree in 1983 and a juris doctorate in 1986, both from the State University of New York at Buffalo. From 2003 to October 2010, he worked as an assistant chief counsel, Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Buffalo, N.Y. From 1994 to 2003, Judge Connelly was a trial attorney and an assistant district counsel for the former Immigration and Naturalization Service, Buffalo. During that time, from 2000 to 2003, he was designated as a civil special assistant U.S. attorney for the Department of Justice, U.S. Attorney's Office, Western District of New York. From 1992 to 1994, Judge Connelly worked as an attorney for the International Institute of Buffalo, representing individuals in immigration court proceedings. From 1989 to 1992, he was an attorney in Buffalo for Serotte, Reich and Seipp, which specialized in the practice of U.S. immigration law. Judge Connelly is a member of the New York State Bar.

Philip J. Costa, Immigration Judge, Los Angeles Immigration Court

Attorney General Eric Holder appointed Judge Costa in October 2010. Judge Costa received a bachelor of arts degree in 1989 and a juris doctorate in 1992, both from New York University. From 2003 to October 2010, he served as deputy chief counsel, Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, New York. From 1997 to 2003, Judge Costa was an assistant district counsel for the former Immigration and Naturalization Service, New York. From 1992 to 1997, he worked as a general commercial litigation associate for Chadbourne & Parke, LLP, New York. Judge Costa is a member of the New York State Bar.

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V. Stuart Couch, Immigration Judge, Charlotte Immigration Court

Attorney General Eric Holder appointed Judge Couch in October 2010. Judge Couch received a bachelor of arts degree in 1987 from Duke University, a juris doctorate in 1996 from Campbell University, Buies Creek, N.C., and a master of law degree in 2008 from George Washington University Law School. From 2009 to October 2010, he was in private practice in Charlotte, N.C. He served in a succession of assignments for 22 years of active Marine Corps service, including senior appellate judge on the U.S. Navy-Marine Corps Court of Criminal Appeals in Washington, D.C., from 2006 to 2009. He served as a senior prosecutor, Department of Defense, Office of Military Commissions, Washington, D.C., from 2003 to 2006, military justice officer and chief trial counsel, Camp Lejeune, N.C., from 2001 to 2003, and chief trial counsel, Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point, N.C., from 1996 to 1999. He was a legal officer and KC-130 pilot, Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 252, Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point, from 1989 to 1993. From 1999 to 2000, Judge Couch was in private practice in New Bern, N.C. From 2000 to 2001, he served as an assistant district attorney, Beaufort, N.C. Judge Couch is a member of the North Carolina State Bar.

Thomas G. Crossan Jr., Immigration Judge, Pearsall Immigration Court

Attorney General Eric Holder appointed Judge Crossan in October 2010. Judge Crossan received a bachelor of arts degree in 1979 and a juris doctorate in 1983, both from the University of Idaho. From 2008 to October 2010, he worked as an assistant chief counsel, Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, San Antonio, Texas. From 2000 to 2008, he served in the U.S. Air Force as a military judge in Washington, D.C., and as staff judge advocate in Tucson, Ariz., and San Antonio. Judge Crossan is a member of the Idaho State Bar.

Leo A. Finston, Immigration Judge, Newark Immigration Court

Attorney General Eric Holder appointed Judge Finston in October 2010. Judge Finston received a bachelor of arts degree in 1988 from the City University of New York and a juris doctorate in 1991 from Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law. From 1997 to October 2010, he served as an assistant chief counsel, Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Office of the Chief Counsel, Newark, N.J. From 1992 to 1997, he was an asylum officer for the former Immigration and Naturalization Service, Office of International Affairs, Newark. Judge Finston is a member of the New Jersey and New York State Bars.

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Saul Greenstein, Immigration Judge, Houston Service Processing Center

Attorney General Eric Holder appointed Judge Greenstein in October 2010. Judge Greenstein received a bachelor of arts degree in 1994 from Brooklyn College and a juris doctorate in 1997 from Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law. From 2004 to October 2010, he worked as a trial attorney, Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Immigration Litigation, Washington, D.C. From 1999 to 2004, Judge Greenstein was an assistant chief counsel, Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Newark, N.J. From 1997 to 1999, he served in the Attorney General's Honors Program, DOJ, Executive Office for Immigration Review, both in the Newark Immigration Court as a judicial law clerk and in the New York Immigration Court as an attorney advisor. Judge Greenstein is a member of the New Jersey and New York State Bars.

Amy C. Hoogasian, Immigration Judge, San Francisco Immigration Court

Attorney General Eric Holder appointed Judge Hoogasian in October 2010. Judge Hoogasian received a bachelor of arts degree in 1990 from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a juris doctorate in 1994 from John Marshall Law School, Chicago, Ill. From 2009 to October 2010, she served as chief legal counsel, SAGIN LLC, and was also in private practice in Chicago. From 2005 to 2009, Judge Hoogasian served as senior corporation counsel, Uline, Inc., Waukegan, Ill. From 1999 to 2005, she was assistant chief counsel, Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Chicago. From 1995 to 1999, Judge Hoogasian worked as attorney to the chairman, State of Illinois Pollution Control Board. From May 1995 to October 1995, she was an assistant state's attorney, Lake County State's Attorney's Office, Waukegan, Ill. Judge Hoogasian is a member of the Illinois State Bar.

Stuart F. Karden, Immigration Judge, Orlando Immigration Court

Attorney General Eric Holder appointed Judge Karden in October 2010. Judge Karden received a bachelor of arts degree in 1973 from the University of Michigan and a juris doctorate in 1976 from the University of Miami Law School. From 2009 to October 2010, he practiced immigration law in Dallas, Texas. From 1995 to 2009, Judge Karden practiced immigration law in Palm Beach County, Fla. He is a past chair of the Florida Bar Immigration Certification Committee and a past president of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, South Florida Chapter. Judge Karden is a member of the Florida Bar.

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F. James Loprest Jr., Immigration Judge, New York Immigration Court

Attorney General Eric Holder appointed Judge Loprest in October 2010. Judge Loprest received a bachelor of arts degree in 1982 from Cornell University and received a juris doctorate in 1989 from University of Notre Dame Law School. From 1992 to October 2010, he was senior immigration litigation counsel and special assistant U.S. attorney for the Department of Justice, U.S. Attorney's Office, Southern District of New York. During that time, Judge Loprest served as deputy regional counsel for the Department Homeland Security (DHS), U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and assistant chief counsel for DHS, Immigration and Customs Enforcement. From 1990 to 1992, Judge Loprest was a litigation associate for Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker, LLP. From 1989 to 1990, he served as law clerk to the Honorable David G. Larimer, U.S. District Court, Western District of New York. Judge Loprest is a member of the State Bar of California and the New York State Bar.

Lisa Luis, Immigration Judge, Houston Immigration Court

Attorney General Eric Holder appointed Judge Luis in October 2010. Judge Luis received a bachelor of science degree in 1990 from the University of Houston and a juris doctorate in 1994 from the University of Houston Law Center. From 2008 to October 2010, she worked as an assistant U.S. attorney for the Department of Justice (DOJ), U.S. Attorney's Office, Southern District of Texas. From 2003 to 2008, Judge Luis worked for the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Office of the Chief Counsel, Houston, Texas, in various capacities, including assistant chief counsel, acting deputy chief counsel and senior attorney. From 1995 to 2003, she was an assistant district counsel for the former Immigration and Naturalization Service, Office of the District Counsel, Houston. During that time she was appointed as a special assistant U.S. attorney for the DOJ, U.S. Attorney's Office, Southern District of Texas, from 1999 to 2001. From 1994 to 1995, she served in the Attorney General's Honors Program, DOJ, Executive Office for Immigration Review, Houston Immigration Court, as a judicial law clerk. Judge Luis is a member of the State Bar of Texas.

Joren Lyons, Immigration Judge, San Francisco Immigration Court

Attorney General Eric Holder appointed Judge Lyons in October 2010. Judge Lyons received a bachelor of arts degree in 1994 and a juris doctorate in 1999, both from the University of California, Berkeley. From 2003 to October 2010, he worked as a senior staff attorney for the Asian Law Caucus, a nonprofit organization in San Francisco, Calif. From 2001 to 2003, Judge Lyons was an associate attorney for Angela M. Bean & Associates, San Francisco, Calif. From

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1999 to 2001, he served in the Attorney General's Honors Program, Department of Justice, Executive Office for Immigration Review, San Francisco Immigration Court, as an attorney advisor and judicial law clerk. Judge Lyons is a member of the State Bar of California.

H. Kevin Mart, Immigration Judge, Miami Immigration Court

Attorney General Eric Holder appointed Judge Mart in October 2010. Judge Mart received a bachelor of arts degree in 1976 from the University of Dayton and a juris doctorate in 1982 from Georgetown University Law Center. From 1996 to October 2010, he worked as a private immigration attorney. From 1982 to 1994, Judge Mart worked for private law firms in New York, St. Thomas, U.S Virgin Islands, Cincinnati, Ohio, and Miami, Fla. Judge Mart is a member of the U.S. Virgin Islands Bar, State Bar of California, and the New York and Ohio State Bars.

Sheila McNulty, Immigration Judge, Chicago Immigration Court

Attorney General Eric Holder appointed Judge McNulty in October 2010. Judge McNulty received a bachelor of arts degree in 1984 from Miami University of Ohio and a juris doctorate in 1991 from the New England School of Law. From 1991 to October 2010, she worked as a special assistant U.S. attorney for the Department of Justice, U.S. Attorney's Office, Northern District of Illinois. Judge McNulty is a member of the Illinois State Bar.

Maureen S. O'Sullivan, Immigration Judge, Los Angeles Immigration Court

Attorney General Eric Holder appointed Judge O'Sullivan in October 2010. Judge O'Sullivan received a bachelor of arts degree in 1978 from the University of California at Los Angeles, a juris doctorate in 1981 from Antioch School of Law and a master of law degree in 1986 from Harvard University. From 1990 to October 2010, she was partner in Kaplan, O'Sullivan & Friedman in Boston, Mass. From 1986 to 1989, Judge O'Sullivan was in private practice in Boston. From 1982 to 1985, she served as director, National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild, Boston. From 1981 to 1982, she was in private practice in Washington, D.C. From 1980 to 1981, Judge O'Sullivan was a staff member of the Select Commission on Immigration and Refugee Policy in Washington, D.C. She has worked intermittently as an adjunct professor at various law schools since 1987. Judge O'Sullivan is a member of the Massachusetts Bar and the State Bar of California.

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Daniel J. Santander, Immigration Judge, Pearsall Immigration Court

Attorney General Eric Holder appointed Judge Santander in October 2010. Judge Santander received a bachelor of science degree in 1990 and a juris doctorate in 1994, both from the University of Arizona. From 2008 to October 2010, he worked as an assistant chief counsel, Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Tucson, Ariz. During that time, Judge Santander served in the U.S. Army in Tallil, Iraq, as trial counsel and acting brigade judge advocate from 2008 to 2009. From 2007 to 2008, he worked as a *judge pro tempore* for the Pima County Consolidated Justice Courts, Tucson. During that time, Judge Santander was a union attorney for the Police Officers Research Association of California, Legal Defense Fund, Stockton, Calif., and in private practice in Tucson from 2006 to 2008. From 1999 to 2005, Judge Santander was an assistant U.S. attorney for the Department of Justice, U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Arizona, Criminal Division. In 2003, he joined the U.S. Army Reserve, where he continues to work as judge advocate. From 1996 to 1999, Judge Santander served as an assistant district counsel for the former Immigration and Naturalization Service, Tucson. From 1995 to 1996, he worked as a litigation associate for Linden, Chapa & Fields, Tucson. Judge Santander is a member of the State Bar of Arizona.

Alice Segal, Immigration Judge, New York Immigration Court

Attorney General Eric Holder appointed Judge Segal in October 2010. Judge Segal received a bachelor of arts degree in 1992 from the University of Pennsylvania and a juris doctorate in 1995 from George Washington University Law School. From 2007 to October 2010, she was a senior attorney, Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), New York. From 1998 to 2007, Judge Segal was an assistant chief counsel, ICE, New York. From August 2004 to December 2004, she served as a special assistant U.S. Attorney for the Department of Justice, U.S. Attorney's Office, Eastern District of New York. From 1995 to 1998, she served in the Attorney General's Honors Program, Department of Justice, Executive Office for Immigration Review, Board of Immigration Appeals, as a law clerk and attorney advisor. Judge Segal is a member of the New York and New Jersey State Bars.

Andrea H. Sloan, Immigration Judge, Portland Immigration Court

Attorney General Eric Holder appointed Judge Sloan in October 2010. Judge Sloan received a bachelor of science degree in 1982 and a juris doctorate in 1986, both from Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, Calif. From 1998 to October 2010, she worked for the Office of Administrative Hearings, Salem, Ore., in various capacities, including administrative law judge,

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interim chief administrative law judge and executive/deputy chief administrative law judge. From 1987 to 1991, Judge Sloan served as deputy district attorney, Humboldt County District Attorney's Office, Eureka, Calif. Judge Sloan is a member of the Oregon State Bar and the State Bar of California.

Dan Trimble, Immigration Judge, Stewart Immigration Court

Attorney General Eric Holder appointed Judge Trimble in October 2010. Judge Trimble received a bachelor of science degree in 1975 from the United States Military Academy and a juris doctorate in 1981 from Case Western Reserve University. From 2009 to October 2010, he served as deputy circuit executive, Office of the Circuit Executive, 11th Judicial Circuit of the United States, Atlanta, Ga. From 2004 to 2009, he was an assistant district attorney, Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit, Hamilton, Ga. From 1975 to 2004, Judge Trimble served in the U.S. Army in various capacities including circuit trial judge, Fort Benning, Ga., chief legislative counsel, Department of the Army and deputy chief legal counsel, Fort Gordon, Ga. Judge Trimble is a member of the Indiana State Bar and the State Bar of Georgia.

Eileen R. Trujillo, Immigration Judge, Denver Immigration Court

Attorney General Eric Holder appointed Judge Trujillo in October 2010. Judge Trujillo received a bachelor of arts degree in 1986 from Harvard College and a juris doctorate in 1990 from the University of California, Berkeley School of Law. From 2006 to August 2010, she was in private practice in Denver, Colo. From 2001 to 2006, Judge Trujillo served as an assistant chief counsel, Office of the Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Denver. From 1996 to 2001, she worked as a trial attorney for the former Immigration and Naturalization Service, Office of the District Counsel, San Francisco, Calif. From 1990 to 1995, she was an associate attorney in two private law firms in San Francisco. Judge Trujillo is a member of the State Bar of California.

Clarence M. Wagner Jr., Immigration Judge, Honolulu Immigration Court

Attorney General Eric Holder appointed Judge Wagner in October 2010. Judge Wagner received a bachelor of science degree in 1993 from Hampton University, a juris doctorate in 1997 from Southern University Law Center and a master of law degree in 1999 from Georgetown University Law Center. From 2003 to October 2010, he served with the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Office of the Principal Legal Advisor, in various capacities, including chief counsel, Honolulu, Hawaii, from

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2008 to 2010, deputy chief counsel, New Orleans, La., from 2006 to 2010, and assistant chief counsel, San Antonio, Texas, from 2003 to 2006. From 2002 to 2003, Judge Wagner served as an assistant attorney general for the State of Louisiana, Department of Justice, Baton Rouge. From February 2002 to June 2002, he served as senior attorney, Legal Affairs Division, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality. From 1998 to 2001, Judge Wagner served as an officer in the U.S. Army, Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Honolulu, Hawaii. In that capacity, he was the labor and employment attorney from 1998 to 2000 and the environmental law attorney from 2000 to 2001. He was also appointed as a special assistant U.S. attorney, Department of Justice, U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Hawaii, from 1998 to 2000. Judge Wagner is a member of the Louisiana State Bar and the State Bar of Texas.

Virna A. Wright, Immigration Judge, New York Immigration Court

Attorney General Eric Holder appointed Judge Wright in October 2010. Judge Wright received a bachelor of arts degree in 1990 from Rutgers College and a juris doctorate in 1993 from Cornell University Law School. From 2003 to October 2010, she was an assistant chief counsel for the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, New York. From 1998 to 2003, Judge Wright was an assistant district counsel for the former Immigration and Naturalization Service, New York. From 1996 to 1998, she worked as an assistant general counsel for compliance, Administration for Children's Services, New York. From 1993 to 1996, she was a litigation associate with Proskauer Rose, LLP, New York. Judge Wright is a member of the New York and New Jersey State Bars.

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