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Nov. 6, 2017

Executive Office for Immigration Review Recently Swears in Seven Immigration Judges

FALLS CHURCH, VA – The Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) announces the recent investiture of seven new immigration judges. After a thorough application process, Attorney General Jeff Sessions appointed Marcos Gemoets, Bridget Virchis, Jeremiah Johnson, Yvonne S. Gonzalez, Ilyce S. Shugall, Cynthia A. Lafuente-Gaona, and Dinesh C. Verma to their new positions.

Biographical information follows.

Marcos Gemoets, Immigration Judge, Houston Immigration Court

Attorney General Jeff Sessions appointed Marcos Gemoets to begin hearing cases in September 2017. Judge Gemoets earned a Bachelor of Science degree in 1999 from Georgetown University and a Juris Doctor in 2002 from St. Mary's School of Law. From 2011 to 2017, he was an attorney at the Law Office of Marcos Gemoets PC, in Houston. From 2007 to 2011, he was a senior attorney at AzulaySeiden Law Group, in Chicago. From 2006 to 2007, he was a senior policy analyst for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, in Washington, D.C. From 2003 to 2006, he was an attorney, then director of immigration services, for the Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of San Antonio. In 2003, he was an attorney at the Law Office of Joseph B. DeMott & Associates, also in San Antonio. Judge Gemoets is a member of the Texas State Bar.

Bridget Virchis, Immigration Judge, Los Angeles Immigration Court

Attorney General Jeff Sessions appointed Bridget Virchis to begin hearing cases in September 2017. Judge Virchis earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1996 from Cornell University and a Juris Doctor in 2002 from the University of Southern California Law School. From 2008 to 2017, she worked for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in Los Angeles, serving as assistant chief counsel from 2008 to 2010, and a senior attorney from 2010 to 2017. From 2006 to 2008, she served as an associate legal advisor for ICE in Washington, D.C. From 2002 to 2006, she served as an attorney advisor for the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of the Solicitor, Division of Indian Affairs, also in Washington, D.C. Judge Virchis is a member of the District of Columbia Bar.

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Jeremiah Johnson, Immigration Judge, San Francisco Immigration Court

Attorney General Jeff Sessions appointed Jeremiah Johnson to begin hearing cases in October 2017. Judge Johnson earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1996 from Randolph Macon College and a Juris Doctor in 2003 from the University of San Francisco School of Law. From 2016 to 2017, he served as an asylum officer for the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, in San Francisco. From 2011 to 2016, he was a partner at Johnson & McDermed LLP, in San Francisco. From 2005 to 2011, he was a partner at Reeves & Associates, in San Francisco. From 2004 to 2005, he was an attorney at the Law Offices of Shawn Sedaghat, in Los Angeles. From 2003 to 2004, he was a research attorney at Van Der Hout, Brigagliano, & Nightingale LLP, in San Francisco. Judge Johnson is a member of the California State Bar.

Yvonne S. Gonzalez, Immigration Judge, San Antonio Immigration Court

Attorney General Jeff Sessions appointed Yvonne S. Gonzalez to begin hearing cases in October 2017. Judge Gonzalez earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1980 from Trinity University and a Juris Doctor in 1983 from St. Mary's School of Law. From 2012 to 2017, she worked at the U.S. Attorney's Office, Western District of Texas, serving as a criminal assistant U.S. attorney in San Antonio from 2012 to 2016, and a special assistant U.S. attorney in the Social Security Administration Anti-Fraud Unit in El Paso, Texas, from 2016 to 2017. From 2006 to 2012, she served as a criminal assistant district attorney for the Bexar County District Attorney's Office, in San Antonio. From 1999 to 2006, she was a civil litigator at the Law Office of Yvonne Salinas Gonzalez, in Laredo, Texas. From 1992 to 1998, she served as a criminal assistant U.S. attorney for the U.S. Attorney's Office, Western District of Texas, in Laredo. From 1989 to 1991, she served as a criminal assistant district attorney for Webb County District Attorney's Office, in Laredo. From 1985 to 1988, she was a civil litigator at the Law Offices of Mann, Freed, Trevino & Hale, in Laredo. Judge Gonzalez is a member of the Texas State Bar.

Ilyce S. Shugall, Immigration Judge, San Francisco Immigration Court

Attorney General Jeff Sessions appointed Ilyce S. Shugall to begin hearing cases in October 2017. Judge Shugall earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1996 from the University of Wisconsin, Madison and a Juris Doctor in 1999 from the DePaul University College of Law. From 2012 to 2017, she was a directing attorney for the immigration program at Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto, in East Palo Alto, Calif. In 2015 she was a lead attorney coordinator at the Bar Association of San Francisco. From 2001 to 2012, she worked at Van Der Hout, Brigagliano, & Nightingale LLP, in San Francisco, as an associate attorney from 2001 to 2008, and partner from 2008 to 2012. From 1999 to 2001, she was an equal justice works legal fellow at the South Texas Asylum Pro Bono Representation Project, in Harlingen, Texas. Judge Shugall is a member of the California and Illinois State Bars.

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Cynthia A. Lafuente-Gaona, Immigration Judge, San Antonio Immigration Court

Attorney General Jeff Sessions appointed Cynthia A. Lafuente-Gaona to begin hearing cases in November 2017. Judge Lafuente-Gaona earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1991 from the University of Texas at Austin and a Juris Doctor in 1998 from the Texas Wesleyan University School of Law. From 2005 to 2017, she worked for the U.S. House of Representatives in the office of Congressman Henry Cuellar in San Antonio, serving as deputy chief of staff and counsel from 2005 to 2010, and chief of staff and counsel from 2011 to 2017. From 2005 to 2014, she was also a sole practitioner at the Law Offices of Robert Gaona & Associates, in San Antonio. From 1998 to 2004, she served as assistant attorney general for the State of Texas Attorney General, in San Antonio. Judge Lafuente-Gaona is a member of the Texas State Bar.

Dinesh C. Verma, Immigration Judge, Philadelphia Immigration Court

Attorney General Jeff Sessions appointed Dinesh C. Verma to begin hearing cases in November 2017. Judge Verma earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1995 from Boston University and a Juris Doctor in 1998 from the George Washington University Law School. From 2000 to 2017, he was a partner at Nankin & Verma PLLC, in Bethesda, Md. From 1999 to 2000, he was an associate attorney at Ludwig & Robinson PLLC, in Washington, D.C. From 1998 to 1999, he served as a judicial law clerk to Special Master Laura D. Millman at the U.S. Court of Federal Claims, in Washington, D.C. Judge Verma is a member of the District of Columbia Bar and Maryland State Bar.

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