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NOTICE

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EOIR Announces 19 New Immigration Judges

FALLS CHURCH, VA – The Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) today announced the appointment of 19 immigration judges, including one assistant chief immigration judge, to immigration courts in Arizona, California, Illinois, Louisiana, Massachusetts, New York, and Texas.

Deputy Attorney General Lisa Monaco administered the oath of office and EOIR Director David L. Neal delivered remarks during the investiture, which was held today at the Department of Justice's Great Hall in the District of Columbia.

Immigration judges are career employees, and EOIR selected them after a thorough and competitive application process. Attorney General Merrick B. Garland officially appointed Rhana Ishimoto as an assistant chief immigration judge and the following individuals as immigration judges: Maria T. Baldini-Potermin, Vicenta I. Banuelos-Rodriguez, Patrick D. Barrett, Elisa C. Brasil, Yul-mi Cho, Roger H. Dinh, Colin P. Eichenberger, Gabrielle D. Jones, Hannah B. Kubica, Kalenna Lee, Katie G. Mullins, Angela Munro, Nicolas Orechwa, Adrian N. Roe, Lucero M. Saldana Mistry, Jacob J. Stender, Abdias E. Tida, and Jami L. Vigil to their new positions.

EOIR continues to work to expand its immigration judge corps and welcomes qualified candidates from all backgrounds to join the agency. In addition to making a difference through service to our Nation, immigration judges join a diverse and inclusive workforce. Individuals interested in these critical positions are invited to [sign up for job alerts](#) that are sent when new immigration judge job opportunities become available.

Biographical information for the newly appointed immigration judges follows:

Rhana Ishimoto, Assistant Chief Immigration Judge, San Diego Immigration Court

Rhana Ishimoto was appointed as an assistant chief immigration judge to begin supervisory immigration court duties and hearing cases in May 2023. Judge Ishimoto earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2000 from Brown University and a Juris Doctor in 2005 from Boston College Law School. From 2018 to 2023, she served as a deputy chief counsel, Office of the Principal Legal Advisor (OPLA), U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), in Otay Mesa, California. From 2009 to 2018, she served as an assistant chief counsel, OPLA, ICE, DHS, in San

EOIR Announces 19 New Immigration Judges

Page 2

Diego. From 2005 to 2008, she served as an assistant corporation counsel with the Office of the Corporation Counsel in the Family Court Division, New York City Law Department. Judge Ishimoto is a member of the New York State Bar.

Maria T. Baldini-Potermin, Immigration Judge, Chicago Immigration Court

Maria T. Baldini-Potermin was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in May 2023. Judge Baldini-Potermin earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1990 from the University of Dayton and a Juris Doctor in 1997 from the University of Minnesota Law School. From 2008 to 2023, she was the owner and managing attorney at Maria Baldini-Potermin and Associates PC in Chicago. During this time, from 2009 to 2023, she served as the author of “Immigration Trial Handbook,” a book she co-authored from 2008 to 2009. Also, from 2009 to 2021, she served as the update editor for “Immigration Law and Crimes” . From 2009 to 2021, she also served as a member of the board of directors of the National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild, where she served as board chair and interim executive director in 2019. From 2007 to 2008, she was an associate immigration attorney at Gostynska Frakt Ltd., and from 2001 to 2007, at Scott D. Pollock and Associates PC in Chicago. From 1999 to 2001, she served as a National Association of Public Interest Law (NAPIL) Equal Justice Fellow with the Midwest Immigrant Rights Center (now National Immigrant Justice Center) in Chicago. From 1997 to 1999, she served as a NAPIL Equal Justice Fellow with the Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota (Oficina Legal) in Saint Paul, Minnesota. From 1996 to 1997, she served as an immigration law clerk at Guyton Law Office in Saint Paul, Minnesota. From 1994 to 1997, she trained law students at the Asylum Law Project in Minneapolis. From 1992 to 1994, she served as an accredited representative, and from 1991 to 1992, as a paralegal, with the South Texas Pro Bono Asylum Representation Project (ProBAR) in Harlingen, Texas. From 1990 to 1991, she served as a paralegal with the Brownsville Catholic Charities Canada Asylum Project in Brownsville, Texas. Judge Baldini-Potermin is a member of the Illinois State Bar and the Minnesota State Bar. She is admitted to practice before the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Second, Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Circuits, and the Supreme Court of the United States.

Vicenta I. Banuelos-Rodriguez, Immigration Judge, Imperial Immigration Court

Vicenta I. Banuelos-Rodriguez was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in May 2023. Judge Banuelos-Rodriguez earned a Bachelor of Science in 2001 from the University of Phoenix, a Juris Doctor in 2004 from Arizona State University, and an Executive Master of Global Management in 2022 from Thunderbird School of Global Management. From 2005 to 2023, she was in private practice at Banuelos Law Offices LLC in Phoenix representing noncitizens before EOIR, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, the Department of Homeland Security, and the Department of State, where she also handled cases on a pro bono basis. From 1993 to 2003, she served as an immigration law clerk with Banuelos Law Offices LLC. Judge Banuelos-Rodriguez is a member of the State Bar of Arizona.

EOIR Announces 19 New Immigration Judges

Page 3

Patrick D. Barrett, Immigration Judge, Adelanto Immigration Court

Patrick D. Barrett was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in May 2023. Judge Barrett earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2005 from Boston College and a Juris Doctor in 2008 from the University of San Diego School of Law. From 2017 to 2023, he served as an assistant chief counsel, Office of the Principal Legal Advisor, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, in Adelanto, California. From 2009 to 2017, he served as an officer in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps in the following locations: Fort Jackson, South Carolina; Fort Knox, Kentucky; Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan; Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, Texas; and Scott Air Force Base, Illinois. Judge Barrett is a member of the State Bar of California.

Elisa C. Brasil, Immigration Judge, San Francisco Immigration Court

Elisa C. Brasil was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in May 2023. Judge Brasil earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1988 from the University of California Santa Barbara and a Juris Doctor in 1993 from the University of California Hastings College of the Law (now known as University of California College of the Law, San Francisco). From 2009 to 2023, she was in private practice at the Law Offices of Elisa C. Brasil in San Francisco handling cases before EOIR and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, including on a pro bono basis. From 2001 to 2009, she was an associate attorney at the Law Offices of Kaiser and Capeci in San Francisco where she also handled immigration cases on a pro bono basis. Judge Brasil is a member of the State Bar of California.

Yul-mi Cho, Immigration Judge, Boston Immigration Court

Yul-mi Cho was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in May 2023. Judge Cho earned a combined Bachelor of Arts/Master of Arts in 2001 from Boston University and a Juris Doctor in 2009 from Roger Williams University School of Law. From 2018 to 2023, she served as an assistant chief counsel, Office of the Principal Legal Advisor, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, in Boston. From 2010 to 2018, she served as an assistant district attorney with the Bristol County District Attorney's Office in Fall River, Massachusetts. Judge Cho is a member of the Connecticut Bar, the Massachusetts Bar, and the New York State Bar.

Roger H. Dinh, Immigration Judge, San Francisco Immigration Court

Roger H. Dinh was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in May 2023. Judge Dinh earned a Bachelor of Science and a Bachelor of Arts in 2007, both from Santa Clara University, and a Juris Doctor in 2011 from Hofstra University School of Law. From 2016 to 2023, he served as an assistant chief counsel, Office of the Principal Legal Advisor, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, in Denver and San Francisco. From 2019 to 2021, while on temporary detail, he served as a special assistant U.S. attorney with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Ohio. From 2014 to 2015, he served as a special assistant U.S. attorney with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of California. From 2012 to 2013, he was an associate attorney at Michael B. Schulman & Associates PC in New York. Judge Dinh is a member of the New York State Bar.

Colin P. Eichenberger, Immigration Judge, San Francisco Immigration Court

Colin P. Eichenberger was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in May 2023. Judge Eichenberger earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2003 from the University of California, Davis, a Juris Doctor in 2006 from the University of San Francisco, and a Master of Laws in 2014 from George Washington University. From 2007 to 2023, he served as an attorney and a trial judge with the U.S. Air Force in the following locations: Misawa Air Base, Japan; Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas; Joint Base Andrews, Maryland; Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma; and Travis Air Force Base, California. In 2023, he retired as a lieutenant colonel from the U.S. Air Force, having last served as a military judge in the Western Circuit. Judge Eichenberger is a member of the State Bar of California.

Gabrielle D. Jones, Immigration Judge, New Orleans Immigration Court

Gabrielle D. Jones was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in May 2023. Judge Jones earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1998 from McNeese State University and a Juris Doctor in 2001 from Southern University Law Center. From 2014 to 2023, she was the deputy directing attorney of the Family Justice Project at the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada (LACSN) and managed the Immigration Advocacy Project where her cases involved domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, and abused, neglected and abandoned children. During this time at LACSN, she also handled cases in Las Vegas before EOIR and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security. Additionally in this role, she collaborated with community partners to provide immigration-related educational classes, legal clinics and free consultations. From 2008 to 2014, she was a domestic violence attorney at LACSN handling divorce, custody, and protection order cases. From 2006 to 2007, she was the managing attorney for the Louisiana Civil Justice Center. From 2002 to 2005, she was a litigation and foreclosure Attorney at Butler & Hosch PA. From 2001 to 2002, she was a closing attorney at Garland Title & Escrow. Judge Jones is a member of the District of Columbia Bar, Louisiana State Bar, and the State Bar of Nevada.

Hannah B. Kubica, Immigration Judge, Boston Immigration Court

Hannah B. Kubica was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in May 2023. Judge Kubica earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2005 from Vanderbilt University and a Juris Doctor in 2008 from the Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law. From 2016 to 2023, she was in private practice as an associate, and later as a senior associate, at McHaffey & Nice LLC in Boston where she represented noncitizens before EOIR and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security. During her time in private practice, she provided pro bono services at Rian Immigrant Center, formerly the Irish International Immigrant Center. From 2016 to 2011, she was in private practice as an associate at Joyce & Associates PC in Boston. From 2011 to 2008, Judge Kubica was in private practice at GNP Law Firm in the greater Boston area, and at Weir & Partners LLC in Philadelphia. Judge Kubica is a member of the Massachusetts Bar and the Pennsylvania Bar.

Kalenna Lee, Immigration Judge, New York – Broadway Immigration Court

Kalenna Lee was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in May 2023. Judge Lee earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2005 from New York University and a Juris Doctor in 2010 from Brooklyn Law School. From 2015 to 2023, she served as an assistant chief counsel, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security (DHS), in New York. From 2013 to 2015, she served as an asylum officer, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), DHS. From 2010 to 2013, she was in private practice at the law firm of Kuzmin and Associates PC in New York representing noncitizens before EOIR and USCIS. Judge Lee is a member of the New York State Bar.

Katie G. Mullins, Immigration Judge, Adelanto Immigration Court

Katie G. Mullins was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in May 2023. Judge Mullins earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2012 from the University of Michigan and a Juris Doctor in 2015 from the University of Michigan Law School. From 2019 to 2023, she was an attorney and then managing attorney at Centro Legal de la Raza in Oakland, California, representing noncitizens before EOIR; U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), Department of Homeland Security; and Department of State (DOS). From 2017 to 2019, she was a staff attorney at the Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services in San Antonio representing noncitizens before EOIR, USCIS, and DOS. From 2016 to 2017, she served as a judicial law clerk for the Honorable Richard W. Pollack, Associate Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court. From 2015 to 2016, she was a legal fellow at the American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii. Judge Mullins is a member of the Florida Bar.

Angela Munro, Immigration Judge, Boston Immigration Court

Angela Munro was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in May 2023. Judge Munro earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2000 from Brown University, a Master of Arts in 2004 from the Fletcher School at Tufts University, and a Juris Doctor in 2008 from Northeastern University School of Law. From 2010 to 2023, she served as an attorney advisor at the Board of Immigration Appeals, EOIR. From 2008 to 2010, she served as a judicial law clerk at the Boston Immigration Court entering on duty through the Attorney General's Honors Program. Judge Munro is a member of the Massachusetts Bar and the New York State Bar.

Nicolas Orechwa, Immigration Judge, Eloy Immigration Court

Nicolas Orechwa was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in May 2023. Judge Orechwa earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1997 from the University of Iowa and a Juris Doctor in 2001 from Loyola University of New Orleans School of Law. From 2017 to 2023, he served as an administrative law judge with the Office of Administrative Hearings for the State of Maryland. From 2006 to 2017, he was an associate, and then partner, at the law firm of Brodsky, Renahan, Pearlstein, and Bouquet CHTD in Gaithersburg, Maryland. From 2005 to 2006, he was a contractor with the U.S. Navy Marine Corps Court of Criminal Appeals. In 2005 he was a contractor with the U.S. Department of Defense Inspector General. From 2001 to 2004, he served as an

EOIR Announces 19 New Immigration Judges

Page 6

assistant district attorney with the Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office in New Orleans. Judge Orechwa is a member of the District of Columbia Bar, the Louisiana Bar, and the Maryland Bar.

Adrian N. Roe, Immigration Judge, Boston Immigration Court

Adrian N. Roe was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in May 2023. Judge Roe received a Bachelor of Arts in 1981 from The Johns Hopkins University and a Juris Doctor in 1984 from Boston University School of Law. From 1991 to 2023, he practiced as a general litigation attorney with various law firms in Pittsburgh to include most recently Roe & Simon LLC. From 1986 to 1991, he was an associate attorney with Wilmer Cutler & Pickering LLP in Washington, D.C. From 1984 to 1986, he was a judicial law clerk for the Honorable Thomas D. Lambros of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio. Judge Roe is a member of the Pennsylvania Bar.

Lucero M. Saldana Mistry, Immigration Judge, Boston Immigration Court

Lucero M. Saldana Mistry was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in May 2023. Judge Saldana Mistry earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2006 from the Florida Atlantic University and a Juris Doctor in 2009 from the Florida Coastal School of Law. From 2017 to 2023, she worked at Frank Hiscock Legal Aid Society (HLAS) in New York where she served as pro bono counsel and held the following positions: deputy executive director (2022-2023); supervising attorney (2019-2022); and staff attorney (2017-2019). From 2013 to 2017, she was in private practice at U.S. Immigration Assist PA in Florida. From 2010 to 2013, she was an associate attorney at the Law Offices of Morano International PA in Florida. Judge Saldana Mistry is a member of the District of Columbia Bar, the Florida Bar, and the New York State Bar.

Jacob J. Stender, Immigration Judge, San Francisco Immigration Court

Jacob J. Stender was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in May 2023. Judge Stender earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2002 from Western Washington University and a Juris Doctor in 2012 from the Seattle University School of Law. From 2020 to 2023, he served as a lead administrative law judge, and from 2017 to 2020, as an administrative law judge, for the Washington State Office of Administrative Hearings. From 2013 to 2017, he served as a district court commissioner for the District Court of Maryland. Judge Stender is a member of the District of Columbia Bar and the Maryland State Bar.

Abdias E. Tida, Immigration Judge, El Paso Immigration Court

Abdias E. Tida was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in May 2023. Judge Tida earned a Bachelor of Arts and a Criminal Justice Certificate in 2004 from St. Thomas University, a Master of Laws in 2006 from St. Thomas University Benjamin L. Crump College of Law, and a Juris Doctor in 2011 from Western Michigan University Thomas M. Cooley Law School. From 2018 to 2023, Judge Tida served as an assistant chief counsel, Office of the Principal Legal Advisor, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security (DHS), in Miami and Houston. From 2017 to 2018, he served as an immigration services officer, U.S.

EOIR Announces 19 New Immigration Judges

Page 7

Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), DHS, in Dallas. From 2015 to 2017, he served as an asylum officer, Refugee Asylum and International Operations Directorate, USCIS, DHS, in Miami and Houston. From 2012 to 2015, he was the managing attorney with Tida Immigration Law Office in Miami. Judge Tida is a member of the New Jersey Bar.

Jami L. Vigil, Immigration Judge, San Francisco Immigration Court

Jami L. Vigil was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in May 2023. Judge Vigil earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1995 from Metropolitan State University of Denver, a Juris Doctor in 2002 from the University of Colorado School of Law, a Master of Arts in 2010 from the University of Colorado, a Master of Public Health in 2016 from the University of Illinois-Springfield, and a Master of Science in 2016 from the University of Florida. From 2011 to 2023, she served as a magistrate judge with the 4th Judicial District for the State of Colorado. During this time, Judge Vigil presided over several treatment courts addressing complex issues of substance abuse, domestic and family violence, and mental health within criminal and child welfare cases. From 2002 to 2010, she served as court appointed counsel representing indigent litigants in criminal, juvenile, and probate cases, as well as representing families in immigration matters. Judge Vigil is a member of the Colorado Bar.

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The Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) is an agency within the Department of Justice. EOIR's mission is to adjudicate immigration cases by fairly, expeditiously, and uniformly interpreting and administering the Nation's immigration laws. Under delegated authority from the Attorney General, EOIR conducts immigration court proceedings, appellate reviews, and administrative hearings. EOIR is committed to ensuring fairness in all cases it adjudicates.