



U.S. Department of Justice
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FACT SHEET

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Yon Alberdi, Immigration Judge, Las Vegas Immigration Court

Attorney General Eric Holder appointed Judge Alberdi to begin hearing cases in June 2015. Judge Alberdi received a bachelor of arts degree in 1996 from the University of Miami and a juris doctorate in 1999 from the University of Miami School of Law. From March 2002 through May 2015, Judge Alberdi served as assistant chief counsel, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Department of Homeland Security, in Orlando, Fla., and from October 2000 to March 2002, he served as assistant chief counsel, ICE, in Oakdale, La. From 1999 to 2000, Judge Alberdi worked as a judicial law clerk entering on duty through the Attorney General's Honors Program. Judge Alberdi is a member of the Florida Bar.

Richard Averwater, Immigration Judge, Memphis Immigration Court

Attorney General Eric Holder appointed Judge Averwater to begin hearing cases in June 2015. Judge Averwater received a bachelor of science degree in 1985 from the University of Ozarks and a juris doctorate in 1988 from the University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law. From June 2010 to May 2015, Judge Averwater was in private practice in Memphis, Tenn., where he specialized in immigration law. From 2009 to 2010, he was a litigation attorney within the Office of Legal Counsel, Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance. From 2002 to 2007, Judge Averwater served as assistant chief counsel, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Department of Homeland Security, in Memphis, Tenn. From 2000 to 2001, he was assistant district attorney for the Shelby County District Attorney's Office, in Memphis, Tenn. From 1993 to 2000, Judge Averwater served as assistant chief counsel, ICE, in Oakdale, La. From 1990 to 1992, he served as special agent and pilot, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice, in Tampa, Fla. From 1989 to 1990, Judge Averwater worked as an attorney entering on duty through the Attorney General's Honors program for the former Immigration and Naturalization Service in El Paso, Texas. Judge Averwater is a member of the Tennessee Bar.

Nimmo Bhagat, Immigration Judge, Houston Immigration Court

Attorney General Eric Holder appointed Judge Bhagat to begin hearing cases in June 2015. Judge Bhagat received a bachelor of arts degree in 1981 from Patna Women's College in Patna, India, a master of arts degree in 1983 from Patna University, a juris doctorate in 1988 from the University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, and a second master of arts degree

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in 1990 from Memphis State University, now the University of Memphis. From January 1996 to May 2015, Judge Bhagat was an attorney in private practice in Memphis, Tenn., where she specialized in immigration law. From 1991 to 1995, she was an attorney at Wolff Ardis, P.C., in Memphis, Tenn. From 1989 to 1991, Judge Bhagat served as an attorney at the Memphis Area Legal Services. Judge Bhagat is a member of the Tennessee Bar.

Patricia Buchanan, Immigration Judge, New York City Immigration Court

Attorney General Eric Holder appointed Judge Buchanan to begin hearing cases in June 2015. Judge Buchanan received a bachelor of arts degree in 1985 from Syracuse University and a juris doctorate in 1990 from the City University of New York School of Law. From December 2003 to May 2015, Judge Buchanan served in various roles within the Immigration Unit, U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York, including assistant U.S. attorney, deputy chief and chief. From 2001 to 2003, she served as a trial attorney within the Office of Immigration Litigation, Civil Division, Department of Justice, in Washington, D.C. From 1996 to 2001, Judge Buchanan served as an attorney for the former Immigration and Naturalization Service, in New York. From 1995 to 1996, she was an attorney at Westchester/Putnam Legal Services Inc., in White Plains, N.Y. From 1991 to 1995, Judge Buchanan was an attorney at Mid-Hudson Legal Services, Inc., in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. Judge Buchanan is a member of the Massachusetts and New York State Bars.

Olivia L. Cassin, Immigration Judge, New York City Immigration Court

Attorney General Loretta Lynch appointed Judge Cassin to begin hearing cases in June 2015. Judge Cassin received a bachelor of arts degree in 1983 from Connecticut College and a juris doctorate in 1988 from Brooklyn Law School. From March 1992 to May 2015, Judge Cassin served as an attorney in the Immigration Law Unit of The Legal Aid Society, in New York. From 1988 to 1991, Judge Cassin was in private practice as an associate at Stroock & Stroock & Lavan, in New York. From 2011 to present, Judge Cassin has served as a member of the New York State Bar Association's Committee on Immigration Representation. Judge Cassin is a member of the District of Columbia and New York State Bars.

Amit Chugh, Immigration Judge, Newark Immigration Court

Attorney General Eric Holder appointed Judge Chugh to begin hearing cases in June 2015. Judge Chugh received a bachelor of arts degree and bachelor of science degree in 1999 from Michigan State University and a juris doctorate in 2002 from the American University Washington College of Law. From October 2004 to May 2015, Judge Chugh served as attorney advisor at the Board of Immigration Appeals, Executive Office for Immigration Review, in Falls Church, Va. From 2002 to 2004, he worked as a judicial law clerk entering on duty through the Attorney General's Honors Program. Judge Chugh is a member of the New Jersey and New York State Bars.

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Melanie Corrin, Immigration Judge, Salt Lake City Immigration Court

Attorney General Eric Holder appointed Judge Corrin to begin hearing cases in June 2015. Judge Corrin received a bachelor of arts degree in 1999 from University of Central Florida and juris doctorate in 2002 from the New England School of Law. From April 2010 to May 2015, Judge Corrin served as a partner and senior attorney at the Joseph Law Firm, in Aurora, Colo. From 2002 to 2010, she was an associate attorney at the Allott Immigration Law Firm, in Centennial, Colo. Judge Corrin is a member of the Colorado Bar.

Gary E. Endelman, Immigration Judge, Houston Immigration Court

Attorney General Eric Holder appointed Judge Endelman to begin hearing cases in June 2015. Judge Endelman received a bachelor of arts degree in 1970 from the University of Virginia, a master of arts degree in 1972 from the University of Delaware, a doctorate in 1977, also from the University of Delaware and a juris doctorate in 1984 from the University of Houston. From November 2011 to May 2015, Judge Endelman served as senior counsel at Foster LLP, in Houston. From 1995 to 2011, he served as lead immigration counsel at BP America Inc., in Houston. From 1985 to 1995, Judge Endelman was an attorney at Tindall & Foster P.C., in Houston. Judge Endelman is a member of the State Bar of Texas.

Charles S. Greene III, Immigration Judge, San Francisco Immigration Court

Attorney General Eric Holder appointed Judge Greene to begin hearing cases in June 2015. Judge Greene received a bachelor of arts degree in 1989 from Duke University and a juris doctorate in 1997 from the University of California Boalt Hall School of Law. From June 2010 to May 2015, Judge Greene served as trial attorney within the Office of Immigration Litigation, Civil Division, Department of Justice (DOJ), in Washington, D.C. From 2005 to 2010, he served at the National Security Division in various capacities including deputy unit chief and attorney advisor, National Security Division, DOJ, in Washington, D.C. From 2001 to 2005, Judge Greene was an attorney at Hogan & Hartson LLP, in Washington, D.C. From 1990 to 1994, he served in the U.S. Army. Judge Greene is a member of the District of Columbia Bar.

Monique Harris, Immigration Judge, Houston Immigration Court

Attorney General Eric Holder appointed Judge Harris to begin hearing cases in June 2015. Judge Harris received a bachelor of science degree in 1991 from Southern University and a juris doctorate in 1998 from Southern University Law Center. From September 2013 to May 2015, Judge Harris served as associate legal counsel, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security (DHS), in Memphis, Tenn. From 1999 to 2013, she served at the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, DHS, and former Immigration and Naturalization Service in various capacities including deputy chief counsel, assistant chief counsel and senior attorney, in New Orleans, Oakdale, La., and San Francisco. From 1998 to

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1999, Judge Harris worked as a judicial law clerk entering on duty through the Attorney General's Honors Program. Judge Harris is a member of the Louisiana State Bar.

Dalin Holyoak, Immigration Judge, San Francisco Immigration Court

Attorney General Eric Holder appointed Judge Holyoak to begin hearing cases in June 2015. Judge Holyoak received a bachelor of arts degree in 1997 from Southern Utah University and a juris doctorate in 2002 from the George Washington University School of Law in Washington, D.C. From October 2006 to May 2015, Judge Holyoak served as trial attorney within the Office of Immigration Litigation, Civil Division, Department of Justice, in Washington, D.C., and San Diego. From 2003 to 2006, he was an attorney at Spriggs & Hollingsworth, in Washington, D.C. From 2002 to 2003, Judge Holyoak was an attorney at Maggio & Kattar, in Washington, D.C. Judge Holyoak is a member of the District of Columbia and Florida Bars.

Matthew Kaufman, Immigration Judge, Memphis Immigration Court

Attorney General Loretta Lynch appointed Judge Kaufman to begin hearing cases in June 2015. Judge Kaufman received a bachelor of arts degree in 1998 from the University of Arizona and a juris doctorate in 2002 from Arizona State University College of Law. From September 2006 to May 2015, Judge Kaufman served as assistant chief counsel, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security (DHS), in Tucson, Ariz. From 2004 to 2006, he served as an attorney, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, DHS, in Tucson, Ariz. From 2003 to 2004, Judge Kaufman served as assistant attorney general for the Washington State Office of the Attorney General, in Yakima, Wash. From 2002 to 2003, he worked as an attorney for Cetrus Consulting Group, in Seattle. Judge Kaufman is a member of the State Bars of Arizona and California, and the Washington State Bar.

Joseph La Rocca, Immigration Judge, New Orleans Immigration Court

Attorney General Eric Holder appointed Judge La Rocca to begin hearing cases in June 2015. Judge La Rocca received a bachelor of arts degree in 1998 and a juris doctorate in 2001, both from Louisiana State University. From July 2006 to May 2015, Judge La Rocca served at the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, in various capacities including senior attorney and assistant chief counsel, in New Orleans. From 2002 to 2006, he was an attorney at David Ware & Associates, in Metairie, La. From 2001 to 2002, Judge La Rocca was an attorney at the Holliday Law Firm, in Baton Rouge, La. Judge La Rocca is a member of the Louisiana State Bar.

Carlos E. Maury, Immigration Judge, Los Angeles Immigration Court

Attorney General Eric Holder appointed Judge Maury to begin hearing cases in June 2015. Judge Maury received a bachelor of arts degree in 1989 from the City College of the City

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University of New York and a juris doctorate in 1992 from the University of Miami School of Law. From June 2002 to May 2015, Judge Maury served at the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, in various capacities including deputy chief counsel and assistant chief counsel, in Los Angeles. From 2000 to 2002, he served as assistant district counsel for the former Immigration and Naturalization Service, in Miami. From 1993 to 2000, he served as an assistant public defender for the Eleventh Judicial District of Florida. Judge Maury is a member of the Florida Bar.

Jacinto Palomino, Immigration Judge, Los Angeles Immigration Court

Attorney General Eric Holder appointed Judge Palomino to begin hearing cases in June 2015. Judge Palomino received a bachelor of arts degree in 1993 from Santa Clara University and a juris doctorate in 1996 from the University of California Hastings College of the Law. From June 1998 to May 2015, Judge Palomino served at the Third Judicial District of New Mexico in various capacities including chief deputy district attorney, district court judge and deputy district attorney. In 1997, Judge Palomino joined the U.S. Army Reserve, Judge Advocate General's Corps, where he currently serves as major. From 1981 to 1984, he served in the U.S. Marine Corps. Judge Palomino is a member of the State Bars of California and New Mexico.

Patrick Savage, Immigration Judge, San Francisco Immigration Court

Attorney General Eric Holder appointed Judge Savage to begin hearing cases in June 2015. Judge Savage received a bachelor of arts degree in 1991 from St. Andrews University and a juris doctorate in 1999 from the University of Oregon School of Law. From September 2007 to May 2015, Judge Savage served as assistant chief counsel, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, in San Francisco. From 2007 to 2012, he served in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. From 2000 to 2007, Judge Savage served in the U.S. Marine Corps. From 1999 to 2000, he was an attorney at Freeman & Freeman, in Rockville, Md. Judge Savage is a member of the State Bar of California and the Maryland State Bar.

Munish Sharda, Immigration Judge, Las Vegas Immigration Court

Attorney General Eric Holder appointed Judge Sharda to begin hearing cases in June 2015. Judge Sharda received a bachelor of arts degree in 1997 from the University of California, Irvine and a juris doctorate in 2000 from the University of Wisconsin Law School. From April 2005 to May 2015, Judge Sharda served as assistant U.S. attorney, U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona and U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Wisconsin. From 2000 to 2005, he served in the U.S. Air Force, Judge Advocate General's Corps. Judge Sharda is a member of the State Bar of Wisconsin.

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Vincent White, Immigration Judge, San Francisco Immigration Court

Attorney General Eric Holder appointed Judge White to begin hearing cases in June 2015. Judge White received a bachelor of arts degree in 1986 from North Carolina State University and a juris doctorate in 1990 from North Carolina Central University School of Law. From January 2015 to May 2015, Judge White worked as a private mediator for Colorado Mediation and Resolution Services. From 2005 to 2014, he served as district court judge for the Eighteenth District of Colorado. From 2001 to 2005, Judge White served as deputy attorney general for Colorado. From 2000 to 2001, he served as combined courts magistrate for the Seventeenth District of Colorado. From 1999 to 2000, Judge White served as attorney, U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, in Denver. From 1994 to 1999, he served as senior litigation attorney, City of Colorado Springs, Colo. From 1993 to 1994, Judge White served as public defender for the Fourth District of Colorado. In 1994, he joined the U.S. Air Force Reserves, Judge Advocate General's Corps, where he currently serves as assistant staff judge advocate. Judge White 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. 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.