



U.S. Department of Justice
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NEWS RELEASE

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June 27, 2016

Executive Office for Immigration Review Swears in 15 Immigration Judges

FALLS CHURCH, VA – The Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) today announced the investiture of 15 immigration judges. Acting Chief Immigration Judge Michael C. McGoings presided over the investiture during a ceremony held June 17, 2016, at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces in Washington, D.C.

After a thorough application process, Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch appointed Nathan N. Aina, John B. Carle, Barbara J. Cigarroa, John G. Crews II, John P. Ellington, Justin W. Howard, Alison R. Kane, James M. Left, Clay N. Martin, Donald C. O'Hare, Jeannette L. Park, Ana L. Partida, Georgina M. Picos, Jayme Salinardi, and Sandra J. Santos-Garcia to their new positions.

"We are pleased to welcome these 15 appointees to the immigration judge corps," said McGoings. "Their arrival brings our immigration judge corps to 273 adjudicators, our highest level to date."

Biographical information follows.

Nathan N. Aina, Immigration Judge, Los Angeles Immigration Court

Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch appointed Nathan N. Aina to begin hearing cases in June 2016. Judge Aina earned a Bachelor of Science degree in 1997, and a Master of Public Administration and a Juris Doctor in 2001, all from Brigham Young University. From 2002 to May 2016, Judge Aina served as an assistant chief counsel for Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, entering on duty through the Attorney General's Honors Program. Judge Aina is a member of the Utah State Bar.

John B. Carle, Immigration Judge, Philadelphia Immigration Court

Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch appointed John B. Carle to begin hearing cases in June 2016. Judge Carle earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1990 from the State University of

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New York at Binghamton and a Juris Doctor in 1993 from the State University of New York at Buffalo Law School. From 2007 to May 2016, Judge Carle served as an assistant chief counsel for the Office of the Chief Counsel, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security. From 2000 through 2007, Judge Carle served as an assistant district attorney for the City of Philadelphia District Attorney's Office. From 1995 through 2000, Judge Carle served as an assistant district attorney for the Erie County District Attorney's Office, in Buffalo, N.Y. From 1993 through 1995, Judge Carle served as an associate attorney for Magner, Love & Morris PC, in Buffalo, N.Y. In 2013, Judge Carle joined the faculty of the Villanova University School of Law where he serves as an adjunct professor. Judge Carle is a member of the Pennsylvania Bar.

Barbara Cigarroa, Immigration Judge, Port Isabel Immigration Court

Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch appointed Barbara Cigarroa to begin hearing cases in June 2016. Judge Cigarroa earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1978 from Harvard University, a Master of Social Work degree in 1993 from Washington University, and a Juris Doctor in 1993 from the Washington University School of Law. From 2008 to May 2016, Judge Cigarroa served as a senior attorney for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Department of Homeland Security (DHS). From 2003 through 2008, Judge Cigarroa served as an assistant chief counsel for ICE, DHS. From 1993 through 2003, Judge Cigarroa served as a trial attorney for the former Immigration and Naturalization Service, Department of Justice, entering on duty through the Attorney General's Honors Program. Judge Cigarroa is a member of the State Bar of Texas.

John G. Crews II, Immigration Judge, Port Isabel Immigration Court

Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch appointed John G. Crews II to begin hearing cases in June 2016. Judge Crews earned a Bachelor of Liberal Studies degree in 1981 from Boston University and a Juris Doctor in 1985 from Southern Methodist University. From 1997 to May 2016, Judge Crews served as an assistant U.S. attorney for the District of New Mexico, U.S. Attorney's Office, Department of Justice (DOJ). From 1987 through 1997, Judge Crews served as an assistant U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Texas, U.S. Attorney's Office, DOJ. From 1985 through 1987, Judge Crews served as a judicial law clerk for the late-Honorable Sam B. Hall Jr., U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Texas. Judge Crews is a member of the State Bar of New Mexico.

John P. Ellington, Immigration Judge, York Immigration Court

Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch appointed John P. Ellington to begin hearing cases in June 2016. Judge Ellington earned a Bachelor of Science degree in 1990 from Georgia State

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University, a Juris Doctor in 1993 from the Dickinson School of Law, and a Master of Liberal Arts degree in 2014 from the University of Pennsylvania. From 2014 to May 2016, Judge Ellington served as general counsel and from 2002 to 2014 as government trial counsel, for Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security. From 2000 through 2002, Judge Ellington served as deputy attorney general for the Fraud Section, Pennsylvania Office of the Attorney General, in Norristown, Pa. From 1997 through 2000, Judge Ellington served as an assistant district attorney for the Office of the Berks County District Attorney, in Reading, Pa. Since 1991, Judge Ellington has served in various capacities for the U.S. Navy Judge Advocate General's Corps, including: from 2014 through 2018, as a military judge; from 2012 through 2014, as senior judge advocate for investigations and inspections; and from 2009 through 2012, and previously from 2003 through 2006, as a staff judge advocate. Judge Ellington is a member of the Pennsylvania Bar.

Justin W. Howard, Immigration Judge, Kansas City Immigration Court

Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch appointed Justin W. Howard to begin hearing cases in June 2016. Judge Howard earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1998 from Kansas State University and a Juris Doctor in 2002 from American University. From 2008 to May 2016, Judge Howard served as an assistant chief counsel for the Office of the Chief Counsel, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security. From 2006 through 2008, Judge Howard served as an associate attorney for Shook, Hardy & Bacon LLP, in Kansas City. From 2002 through 2005, Judge Howard served as an assistant state's attorney for the Miami-Dade Office of the State Attorney, in Miami. Judge Howard is a member of the Florida and Missouri Bars.

Alison R. Kane, Immigration Judge, Denver Immigration Court

Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch appointed Alison R. Kane to begin hearing cases in June 2016. Judge Kane earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1997 from Syracuse University and a Juris Doctor in 2003 from the Boston College Law School. From 2010 to May 2016, Judge Kane served as an assistant chief counsel for Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security. From January 2010 through June 2010, and previously from 2005 through 2007, Judge Kane served as an associate for Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy LLP, in New York City and Philadelphia. From 2004 through 2005, Judge Kane served as an attorney advisor for the Executive Office for Immigration Review, Department of Justice. Judge Kane is a member of the New York State Bar.

James M. Left, Immigration Judge, Adelanto Immigration Court

Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch appointed James M. Left to begin hearing cases in

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June 2016. Judge Left earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1988 from Pacific Lutheran University and a Juris Doctor in 1994 from the Pepperdine University School of Law. From 2013 to May 2016, and previously from 2008 through 2009, Judge Left served as a senior attorney for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Department of Homeland Security (DHS). From 2009 through 2013, and previously from 2007 through 2008, Judge Left served as a special assistant U.S. attorney for the U.S. Attorney's Office, in Los Angeles. From 2004 through 2007, Judge Left served as an assistant chief counsel for ICE, DHS. From 2002 through 2004, Judge Left served as an associate legal advisor for the National Security Law Division, ICE, DHS. From 1997 through 2002, Judge Left served as an assistant district counsel for the former Immigration and Naturalization Service, Department of Justice. Judge Left is a member of the State Bar of California.

Clay N. Martin, Immigration Judge, Pearsall Immigration Court

Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch appointed Clay N. Martin to begin hearing cases in June 2016. Judge Martin earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1984 from Hendrix College and a Juris Doctor in 1987 from the St. Mary's University School of Law. From 2008 through May 2016, Judge Martin served as a senior attorney for the Office of the Chief Counsel (OCC), Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Department of Homeland Security (DHS). From 2002 through 2007, Judge Martin served as an assistant chief counsel for OCC, ICE, DHS. From 1995 through 2002, Judge Martin served as chief deputy prosecuting attorney for the 18th West Judicial District Prosecuting Attorney's Office, in Polk and Montgomery counties, Ark. From 1992 through 1995, Judge Martin served as an assistant district attorney for the Bexar County District Attorney's Office, in San Antonio. From 1989 through 1991, Judge Martin served as an attorney for Riddle and Brown, in Dallas. From 1988 through 1989, Judge Martin served as an attorney for Soules and Wallace, in San Antonio. From 1987 through 1988, Judge Martin served as an attorney for Hill, Heard, Oneal, Gilstrap & Goetz, in Arlington, Texas. Judge Martin is a member of the Arkansas Bar and the State Bar of Texas.

Donald C. O'Hare, Immigration Judge, Denver Immigration Court

Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch appointed Donald C. O'Hare to begin hearing cases in June 2016. Judge O'Hare earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1984 from Macalester College, a Master of Arts degree in 1987 from the University of Minnesota, a Juris Doctor in 1992 from the California Western School of Law, and a Master of Laws degree in 1994 from the University of Virginia School of Law. From 2003 to May 2016, Judge O'Hare served in several capacities, including as deputy chief counsel, assistant chief counsel, and a senior attorney for the Office of the Chief Counsel, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security. From 1997 through 2003, Judge O'Hare served as an assistant district counsel for the former

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Immigration and Naturalization Service, Department of Justice. From 1992 through 1993, Judge O'Hare was a staff attorney for the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp., in Washington, D.C. Judge O'Hare is a member of the State Bar of California.

Jeannette L. Park, Immigration Judge, Los Angeles Immigration Court

Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch appointed Jeannette L. Park to begin hearing cases in June 2016. Judge Park earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1996 from the University of California, Berkeley, and a Juris Doctor in 2000 from the Boston College Law School. From 2003 to May 2016, Judge Park served as an assistant chief counsel for the Office of the Chief Counsel, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security. From 2000 through 2003, Judge Park served as an assistant district counsel for the former Immigration and Naturalization Service, Department of Justice. Judge Park is a member of the State Bar of California.

Ana L. Partida, Immigration Judge, Los Angeles Immigration Court

Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch appointed Ana L. Partida to begin hearing cases in June 2016. Judge Partida earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1996 from San Diego State University, a Master of Forensic Sciences degree in 1998 from National University, and a Juris Doctor in 2002 from the New England School of Law. From 2003 to May 2016, Judge Partida served as an assistant chief counsel for the Office of the Chief Counsel (OCC), Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Department of Homeland Security (DHS). From 2002 through 2003, Judge Partida served as an assistant district counsel for the former Immigration and Naturalization Service, Department of Justice. Judge Partida is a member of the New Jersey State Bar.

Georgina M. Picos, Immigration Judge, Houston Immigration Court

Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch appointed Georgina M. Picos to begin hearing cases in June 2016. Judge Picos earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in 1987 from Florida International University and a Juris Doctor in 1991 from St. Thomas University School of Law. From 1994 to May 2016, Judge Picos served as an assistant chief counsel for the Office of the Chief Counsel, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security. From 1992 through 1994, Judge Picos served as an associate attorney for the Law Offices of Magda Montiel Davis PA, in Miami. From 1991 through 1992, Judge Picos served as a judicial law clerk for the Miami Immigration Court, Executive Office for Immigration Review, Department of Justice, entering on duty through the Attorney General's Honors Program. Judge Picos is a member of the Florida Bar.

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Jayme Salinardi, Immigration Judge, Kansas City Immigration Court

Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch appointed Jayme Salinardi to begin hearing cases in June 2016. Judge Salinardi earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1994 from the University of Missouri-Columbia and a Juris Doctor in 1999 from the University of Missouri-Columbia. From 2012 to May 2016, Judge Salinardi served as deputy chief counsel for the Office of the Chief Counsel (OCC), Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Department of Homeland Security (DHS). From 2003 through 2012, Judge Salinardi served as assistant chief counsel and senior attorney for OCC, ICE, DHS. From 2000 through 2003, Judge Salinardi served as an immigration attorney for Fallon, Bixby, Cheng & Lee, in San Francisco. In 2011, Judge Salinardi joined the faculty of the University of Missouri School of Law where he serves as an adjunct professor of law. Judge Salinardi is a member of the State Bar of California.

Sandra J. Santos-Garcia, Immigration Judge, Adelanto Immigration Court

Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch appointed Sandra J. Santos-Garcia to begin hearing cases in June 2016. Judge Santos-Garcia earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1998 and a Juris Doctor in 2001, both from the University of California, Berkeley. From 2010 through 2016, Judge Santos-Garcia served as a senior attorney for the Office of the Chief Counsel (OCC), Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Department of Homeland Security (DHS). From 2001 through 2010, Judge Santos-Garcia served as assistant chief counsel for OCC, ICE, DHS. Judge Santos-Garcia is a member of the State Bars of Arizona and California.

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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.