



**U.S. Department of Justice**  
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# NOTICE

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May 10, 2024

## **EOIR Announces 18 New Immigration Judges and 2 New Appellate Immigration Judges**

FALLS CHURCH, VA – The Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) today announced the appointment of 20 immigration judges—18 immigration judges who joined courts in California, Georgia, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Virginia, and two appellate immigration judges who joined the Board of Immigration Appeals.

Acting Director Mary Cheng delivered remarks and Deputy Attorney General Lisa O. Monaco administered the oath of office during the investiture, which was held today at the Department of Justice's Great Hall in Washington, D.C.

EOIR continues 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 opportunities become available.

Immigration judges and appellate immigration judges are career employees, and each one is selected after a thorough and competitive application process. Attorney General Merrick B. Garland officially appointed the following individuals as immigration judges: Sarjo Barrow, Jenny Vi Beverly, Paula Dixon, Mark D. Donovan, Nina J. Froes, Mary A. Fatcher, Emmanuel Garcia, Erin Michelle Gover, Fayaz Habib, Jerrica A. Harness, Dustin J. Johnson, Brent D. Jostad, Derek C. Julius, Cait Irwin, Karen de Lourdes Márquez-Casillas, Rajesh K. Matthew, Roopal B. Patel, and Sarah F. Torres, and the following individuals as appellate immigration judges: Joan B. Geller and Homero López Jr.

Biographical information for the newly appointed immigration judges follows:

### **Sarjo Barrow, Immigration Judge, Laredo Immigration Court**

Sarjo Barrow was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in May 2024. Judge Barrow earned a Bachelor of Science in 2010 from John Jay College of Criminal Justice, The City University of New York, and a Juris Doctor in 2013 from Thomas M. Cooley Law School. From 2019 to 2024, he served as an assistant chief counsel with the Office of the Principal Legal Advisor, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, in Baltimore from 2023 to 2024 and in

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San Francisco from 2019 to 2023. From 2013 to 2019, he was an attorney in private practice in Madison, Wisconsin, including two years as an immigration attorney. Judge Barrow is a member of the State Bar of Wisconsin.

#### **Jenny Vi Beverly, Immigration Judge, Lowell Immigration Court**

Jenny Vi Beverly was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in May 2024. Judge Beverly earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2010 from the University of California, Los Angeles, and a Juris Doctor in 2013 from the University of Maine School of Law. From 2014 to 2024, she was in private practice as an attorney partner from 2014 to 2017 and as principal attorney from 2017 to 2024, representing noncitizens before EOIR and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security. During her time in private practice, she volunteered as pro bono counsel for the Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project in Maine. Judge Beverly is a member of the Maine State Bar.

#### **Paula Dixon, Immigration Judge, Otay Mesa Immigration Court**

Paula Dixon was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in May 2024. Judge Dixon earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2002 from Arizona State University and a Juris Doctor in 2006 from Seattle University School of Law. From 2018 to 2024, she served as an assistant chief counsel with the Office of the Principal Legal Advisor, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, in Otay Mesa, California. From 2017 to 2018, she served as a special assistant U.S. attorney for the Southern District of California in San Diego, California. From 2014 to 2016, she was a criminal defense attorney in private practice in Phoenix, Arizona. From 2012 to 2014, she served as an assistant city prosecutor with the City of Scottsdale in Scottsdale, Arizona. From 2007 to 2012, she served as a deputy county attorney at the Maricopa County Attorney's Office in Phoenix, Arizona. Judge Dixon is a member of the State Bar of California.

#### **Mark D. Donovan, Immigration Judge, Boston Immigration Court**

Mark D. Donovan was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in May 2024. Judge Donovan earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1992 from The Catholic University of America, a Master of Business Administration in 2001 from Northeastern University, and a Juris Doctor in 2008 from New England Law - Boston. From 2012 to 2024, he was an associate at Considine & Furey LLP in Boston, practicing civil litigation and criminal defense. From 2008 to 2012, he was an assistant district attorney in the Bristol County District Attorney's Office in Bristol County, Massachusetts. Judge Donovan is a member of the Massachusetts Bar.

#### **Nina J. Froes, Immigration Judge, Lowell Immigration Court**

Nina J. Froes was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in May 2024. Judge Froes earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2003 from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth and a Juris Doctor in 2008 from Roger Williams University School of Law. From 2013 to 2024, she was a solo immigration law practitioner at the Law Office of Nina J. Froes in New Mattapoisett, Massachusetts. From 2012 to 2013, she was a clinical fellow at the Immigration Law Clinic, School of Law, University of

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Massachusetts Dartmouth. From 2010 to 2011, she was the legal director of the Immigrant Victims Representation Project, Immigration Department, Catholic Social Services of Fall River, Catholic Charities USA, in Fall River, Massachusetts. From 2008 to 2011, she was a fellow in the immigration unit at the Legal Assistance Corporation of Central Massachusetts in Worcester, Massachusetts. Judge Froes is a member of the Massachusetts Bar and the Rhode Island Bar.

#### **Mary A. Fitcher, Immigration Judge, Philadelphia Immigration Court**

Mary A. Fitcher was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in May 2024. Judge Fitcher earned a Bachelor of Science in 1975 from East Stroudsburg University and a Juris Doctor in 1985 from the University of Bridgeport School of Law (currently Quinnipiac University School of Law). From 2020 to 2023, she served as a supervisory assistant U.S. attorney at the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania in Allentown. From 2010 to 2020, she served as a trial attorney in the Counterterrorism Section, National Security Division, Department of Justice, in Washington, D.C. From 2006 to 2010, she served as an assistant U.S. attorney at the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania in Allentown. From 2003 to 2006, she served as the attorney-in-charge at the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey in Trenton. From 1992 to 2003, she served as an assistant U.S. attorney at the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey in Camden and Trenton. From 1991 to 1992, she was an associate at McKissock and Hoffman PC in Philadelphia. From 1985 to 1991, she served as an assistant district attorney at the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office. Judge Fitcher is a member of the Pennsylvania Bar.

#### **Emmanuel Garcia, Immigration Judge, Laredo Immigration Court**

Emmanuel Garcia was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in May 2024. Judge Garcia earned a Bachelor of Science in 2006 from Southwestern University, a Juris Doctor in 2011 from St. Mary's University School of Law, and a Master of Laws in 2012 from the University of Texas School of Law. From 2020 to 2024, he served as a deputy chief counsel with the Office of the Principal Legal Advisor (OPLA), U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), in San Antonio. From 2016 to 2020, he served as an assistant chief counsel with OPLA, ICE, DHS, in San Antonio. From 2013 to 2016, he served as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Orlando L. Garcia, Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas. From 2012 to 2013, he served as a briefing attorney for the Honorable Marialyn Barnard of the Court of Appeals, Fourth Judicial District, State of Texas. Judge Garcia is a member of the State Bar of Texas.

#### **Erin Michelle Gover, Immigration Judge, Boston Immigration Court**

Erin Michelle Gover was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in May 2024. Judge Gover earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2005 from Syracuse University and a Juris Doctor in 2008 from Pace Law School (currently Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University). From 2008 to 2024, she served as an assistant corporation counsel and then an assistant borough chief and deputy borough chief with the Law Department, City of New York. Judge Gover is a member of the New York State Bar

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and Connecticut Bar.

#### **Fayaz Habib, Immigration Judge, New York – Broadway Immigration Court**

Fayaz Habib was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in May 2024. Judge Habib earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in 2010 from the University of Georgia and a Juris Doctor in 2014 from Georgia State University College of Law. From 2020 to 2024, he served as deputy chief counsel with the Office of the Principal Legal Advisor (OPLA), U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), in New York City. From 2018 to 2020, he served as an assistant chief counsel with OPLA, ICE, DHS, where he also served as legal counsel to Homeland Security Investigations, New York. From 2014 to 2018, he served as an assistant chief counsel with OPLA, ICE, DHS, in Lumpkin, Georgia, and New York City. Judge Habib is a member of the State Bar of Georgia.

#### **Jerrica A. Harness, Immigration Judge, Stewart Immigration Court**

Jerrica A. Harness was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in May 2024. Judge Harness earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2000 from Berry College and a Juris Doctor in 2007 from the University of Tennessee College of Law. From 2019 to 2024, she served as a supervisory administrative law judge for the Office of Medicare Hearings and Appeals, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in Albuquerque, New Mexico. In 2019, she served as an assistant chief counsel with the Office of the Principal Legal Advisor, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, in Lumpkin, Georgia. From 2017 to 2019, she served as an attorney advisor with the Office of Hearings Operations, Social Security Administration in Falls Church, Virginia, and Knoxville, Tennessee. From 2012 to 2017, she served as an administrative hearing officer for the Tennessee Department of Human Services in Chattanooga, Tennessee. From 2011 to 2012, she served as a senior attorney for Children’s Legal Services, Department of Children and Families, State of Florida. From 2007 to 2012, she served as an assistant state attorney for the State Attorney’s Office of the First Judicial Circuit, State of Florida. Judge Harness is a member of the Tennessee Bar.

#### **Cait Irwin, Immigration Judge, Dallas Immigration Court**

Cait Irwin was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in May 2024. Judge Irwin earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2009 from Texas State University and a Juris Doctor in 2014 from Oklahoma City University School of Law. From 2022 to 2024, she served as an assistant chief counsel with the Office of the Principal Legal Advisor, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, in San Antonio. From 2014 to 2022, she served as an assistant district criminal attorney, serving from 2016 to 2022 in Bexar County, Texas, and from 2014 to 2016 in Oklahoma County, Oklahoma. Judge Irwin is a member of the State Bar of Texas.

#### **Dustin J. Johnson, Immigration Judge, Portland Immigration Court**

Dustin J. Johnson was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in May 2024. Judge Johnson earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2003 from the University of Texas at Austin and a Juris Doctor in 2010 from Thomas M. Cooley Law School. From 2022 to 2024, he served as a Hearing Officer for the Office of Administrative Trials and

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Hearings, City of New York. From 2021 to 2022, he served as an attorney for the Fire Department, City of New York. From 2018 to 2021, he served as a supervising attorney for the Administration for Children's Services, City of New York. From 2010 to 2018, he was in private practice in New York, specializing in immigration law. Judge Johnson is a member of the New York State Bar.

#### **Brent D. Jostad, Immigration Judge, Richmond Immigration Adjudication Center**

Brent D. Jostad was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in May 2024. Judge Jostad earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2007 from The George Washington University and a Juris Doctor in 2010 from The George Washington University Law School. From 2019 to 2024, he served as an assistant chief counsel with the Office of the Principal Legal Advisor, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, in Miami. From 2010 to 2019, he served as an assistant state attorney with the Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office. Judge Jostad is a member of the Florida Bar.

#### **Derek C. Julius, Immigration Judge, Richmond Immigration Adjudication Center**

Derek C. Julius was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in May 2024. Judge Julius earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2003 from DePaul University, a Juris Doctor in 2006 from Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law, and a Master of Studies in international human rights law in 2021 from the University of Oxford. From 2022 to 2024, he served as Foreign Section Chief, Office of Chief Counsel, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). In 2022, he served as a senior attorney, Diversion and Regulatory Policy Section, DEA, DOJ. From 2008 to 2022, he served as assistant director, senior litigation counsel, and trial attorney at the Office of Immigration Litigation, Civil Division, DOJ. During this time, from 2020 to 2021, he served as Acting Deputy Associate General Counsel detailed to the Legal Counsel Division, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security; and, from 2013 to 2014, he served as a trial attorney detailed to the Fraud Section, Civil Division, DOJ. From 2006 to 2008, he served as a judicial law clerk to the Boston, Hartford, Las Vegas, and Florence Immigration Courts, entering through the Attorney General's Honors Program. Judge Julius is a member of the New York State Bar.

#### **Karen de Lourdes Márquez-Casillas, Immigration Judge, Sterling Immigration Court**

Karen de Lourdes Márquez-Casillas was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in May 2024. Judge Márquez-Casillas earned a Bachelor of Arts in Finance in 1998 from the University of Puerto Rico and a Juris Doctor in 2002 from the University of Puerto Rico School of Law. From 2014 to 2024, she served as an assistant chief counsel with the Office of the Principal Legal Advisor, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, in various locations, including El Paso, Texas; Miami, Florida; and Washington D.C. From 2012 to 2014, she practiced immigration law in El Paso at the Law Office of Felipe Millan. From 2010 to 2011, she served as the managing attorney for Márquez & Ferrari Law Offices in San Juan, Puerto Rico. From 2007 to 2009, she directed the legal division of ALO

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Corporation, representing financial institutions in federal and state civil cases and bankruptcy proceedings. From 2003 to 2006, she practiced civil litigation with the Law Offices of Ramos-Diaz, Acevedo & Gonzalez in San Juan, Puerto Rico. In 2003, she worked as in-house counsel for the legal division of Universal Group, Inc. in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico. Judge Márquez-Casillas is a member of the State Bar of Texas.

### **Rajesh K. Mathew, Immigration Judge, Hyattsville Immigration Court**

Rajesh K. Mathew was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in May 2024. Judge Mathew earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2008 from Saint Xavier University, a Juris Doctor in 2012 from The John Marshall Law School, a Master of Arts in 2020 from Liberty University, and a Master of Laws in 2020 from The George Washington University Law School. From 2023 to 2024, he served as an assistant general counsel with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice. From 2013 to 2023, he served as an attorney with the United States Air Force at the following locations: Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, Alabama; Ramstein Air Base, Germany; Robins Air Force Base, Warner Robins, Georgia; Barksdale Air Force Base, Shreveport, Louisiana; and Malmstrom Air Force Base, Great Falls, Montana. Judge Mathew is a member of the District of Columbia Bar, Illinois State Bar, and New York State Bar.

### **Roopal B. Patel, Immigration Judge, Boston Immigration Court**

Roopal B. Patel was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in May 2024. Judge Patel earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2003 from Harvard University and a Juris Doctor in 2011 from New York University School of Law. From 2014 to 2024, she was a senior staff attorney at Manhattan Legal Services where she worked on a wide variety of cases, including immigration cases. From 2011 to 2013, she was a staff attorney at the Brennan Center for Justice. Judge Patel is a member of the New York State Bar.

### **Sarah F. Torres, Immigration Judge, Concord Immigration Court**

Sarah F. Torres was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in May 2024. Judge Torres earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2004 from the University of California, Berkeley and a Juris Doctor in 2007 from the University of California, Davis School of Law. From 2019 to 2024, she was the managing attorney of the immigration legal services program at Opening Doors Inc., in Sacramento. From 2015 to 2019, she was a partner at Tomlinson & Torres PC. From 2008 to 2014, she practiced immigration law in private practice. Judge Torres is a member of the State Bar of California.

### **Joan B. Geller, Appellate Immigration Judge**

Attorney General Merrick B. Garland appointed Joan B. Geller as an appellate immigration judge in May 2024. Judge Geller earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1990 from the University of Wisconsin and a Juris Doctorate in 1994 from the Georgetown University Law Center. From 2003 to 2024, Judge Geller served as an attorney advisor with the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA), and in 2015, 2016, 2018, 2020, and 2021 she served as a temporary Appellate Immigration Judge with the BIA. From 2002 to 2003,

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she was deputy staff counsel at the District of Columbia Court of Appeals. From 1996 to 2002, she was a staff attorney at the District of Columbia Court of Appeals. From 1994 to 1996, she was a court law clerk at the District of Columbia Court of Appeals. Judge Geller is a member of the Maryland State Bar and the District of Columbia Bar.

**Homero López Jr., Appellate Immigration Judge**

Attorney General Merrick B. Garland appointed Homero López Jr. as an appellate immigration judge in May 2024. Judge López earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2007 from Southern Methodist University and a Juris Doctorate in 2010 from Tulane University Law School. From 2018 to 2024, Judge Lopez worked with the Immigration Services and Legal Advocacy (ISLA) in New Orleans, which he cofounded, serving as legal director from 2021 to 2024 and executive director from 2018 to 2020. From 2015 to 2018, he worked with Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, serving as managing attorney of Immigration Legal Services from 2015 to 2018 and as supervising attorney for the Unaccompanied Children's Program in 2015. From 2011 to 2014, he worked with Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Baton Rouge, serving as a staff attorney from 2011 to 2014 and as a supervising attorney in 2014. Judge López is a member of the Louisiana Bar.

— EOIR —

The Executive Office for Immigration Review 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.