



U.S. Department of Justice
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NOTICE

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June 17, 2026

EOIR Announces 39 Immigration Judges and 6 Temporary Immigration Judges *Biographical Information*

Immigration Judges

Stephanie Arrache, Immigration Judge, Salt Lake City Immigration Court

Stephanie Arrache was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in June 2026. Judge Arrache earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2007 from the University of California, Riverside, and a Juris Doctor in 2010 from Chapman University School of Law. From March 2024 to May 2026, she was the city prosecutor for the City of Mills, Wyoming. From July 2022 to December 2023, she served as an assistant district attorney for the Natrona County District Attorney's Office. From June 2011 to June 2022, she served as a criminal defense attorney for the Law Office of Stephanie Arrache in Palm Springs, California. Judge Arrache is a member of the Wyoming State Bar.

Watson P. Berich, Immigration Judge, New York – Federal Plaza Immigration Court

Watson P. Berich was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in June 2026. Judge Berich earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1981 from Randolph-Macon College and a Juris Doctor in 1986 from George Mason University School of Law. From May 2021 to May 2026, he was a retired judge in private consultation. From July 1999 to April 2021, he served as a judge of compensation, Division of Workers' Compensation, New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development. From January 1996 to June 1999, he served as a municipal court judge. From December 1986 to June 1999, he was a managing partner at Berich & Berich, in Red Bank, New Jersey. Judge Berich is a member of the New Jersey State Bar.

Denise M. Bowen, Immigration Judge, New York – Varick Immigration Court

Denise M. Bowen was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in June 2026. Judge Bowen earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1999 from the University of South Florida and a Juris Doctor in 2002 from New England Law. From March 2017 to April 2026, she was in private practice with Bowen Law in Jacksonville, Florida. From November 2004 to March 2017, she served as a Florida State Trial Court general

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magistrate for the Fourth Judicial Circuit in Jacksonville, Florida, after serving as a staff attorney from June 2004 to November 2004. From October 2002 to November 2004, she was in private practice in Jacksonville, Florida. Judge Bowen is a member of the Florida Bar.

Kathleen E. Byrne, Immigration Judge, Hyattsville Immigration Court

Kathleen E. Byrne was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in June 2026. Judge Byrne earned a Bachelor of Science in 1996 from the University of Maryland University College and a Juris Doctor in 1999 from the University of Maryland School of Law. From November 2025 to May 2026, 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 Jacksonville, Florida. From August 2022 to November 2025, she served as a hearing examiner with the Office of Zoning and Administrative Hearings (OZAH) for Montgomery County, Maryland, and from May 2024 to November 2025, she also served as the director of OZAH. From April 2011 to July 2022, she served first as deputy assistant commissioner and then assistant commissioner for the Code Enforcement Legal Section with the Department of Housing and Community Development for the City of Baltimore, and from January 2021 to July 2022, she also served as the acting executive director with Board of Zoning and Municipal Appeals for the City of Baltimore. From June 2010 to April 2011, she served as the executive director of the U.S. Green Building Council, Maryland Chapter, in Baltimore. From October 2006 to June 2010, she was an associate with Hyatt and Weber PA and the Arthur Law Group LLC in Annapolis, Maryland. From November 2000 to September 2006, she was an attorney with Anne Arundel County, Maryland, the City of Baltimore, and the Department of the Army in Fort Meade, Maryland. From August 1999 through May 2000, she clerked for the Honorable James J. Lombardi in the Circuit Court for Prince George's County, Maryland. Judge Byrne is a member of the Maryland State Bar Association.

Martin R. Celis, Immigration Judge, Dallas Immigration Court

Martin R. Celis was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in June 2026. Judge Celis earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2005 from the University of Texas at El Paso and a Juris Doctor in 2009 from the University of Toledo College of Law. From August 2016 to May 2026, 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 (DHS), in El Paso, Texas. From September 2014 to September 2016, he served as a paralegal specialist in Fines, Penalties and Forfeitures at U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), DHS, in El Paso, Texas. From April 2012 to September 2014, he served as a customs and border protection officer at CBP, DHS, in El Paso, Texas. Judge Celis is a member of the State Bar of Texas.

Ann Elizabeth Cruce-Haag, Immigration Judge, Miami Immigration Court

Ann Elizabeth Cruce-Haag was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in June 2026. Judge Cruce-Haag earned a Bachelor of Science in 1997 from Texas Tech University and a Doctor of Jurisprudence in 2001 from Texas Tech School

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of Law. From June 2003 to May 2026, she served as an assistant U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Texas in Lubbock, Texas. From August 2001 to June 2003, she was a briefing clerk for U.S. District Judge Sam R. Cummings. Judge Cruce-Haag is a member of the State Bar of Texas.

Larry Downend, Immigration Judge, LaSalle Immigration Court

Larry Downend was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in June 2026. Judge Downend earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1997 from Wright State University, a Juris Doctor in 2003 from Baylor University School of Law, a Master of Laws in 2008 from The Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School, and a Master of Laws in 2011 from Chapman University School of Law. From October 2018 to May 2026, he was an independent contractor with Kersey Immigration Compliance Services Inc. in Goodlettsville, Tennessee, and Tampa, Florida. From November 2003 to June 2018, he served as a judge advocate in the U.S. Army's Judge Advocate General Corps in the following locations: Fort Bliss, Texas; the Pentagon; Afghanistan; Fort Knox, Kentucky; Fort Hood, Texas; Arlington, Virginia; and Camp Humphreys, Korea. From January 1998 to May 2000, he served as an infantry officer in the U.S. Army in the following locations: Fort Campbell, Kentucky; and Fort Benning, Georgia. From October 1992 to December 1995, he served as an enlisted servicemember in the U.S. Army in the following locations: Fort Campbell, Kentucky; and Camp Hovey, Korea. Judge Downend is a member of the State Bar of Texas.

Patrick A. Espana, Immigration Judge, Concord Immigration Court

Patrick A. Espana was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in June 2026. Judge Espana earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1993 from the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of New Mexico and a Juris Doctorate in 1997 from the University of New Mexico School of Law. From May 2024 to May 2026, he was an assistant chief counsel with the Office of the Principal Legal Advisor, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, in Seattle. From November 2011 to May 2024, he served as an administrative law judge at the Washington State Office of Administrative Hearings in Seattle. From July 2007 to November 2011, he served as a hearing officer for the State of Washington Department of Licensing. From October 1998 to June 2007, he served as an attorney for the Washington State Department of Child Support, and prior to this, he served as an attorney for the law firm of Bogle & Gates PLLC in Seattle. Judge Espana is a member of the Washington State Bar Association.

Darian R. Etienne, Immigration Judge, Dallas Immigration Court

Darian R. Etienne was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in June 2026. Judge Etienne earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2014 from Southern Illinois University and a Juris Doctor in 2017 from the University of Mississippi School of Law. From December 2024 to May 2026, she served as an assistant district attorney at the Waller County Criminal District Attorney's Office in Hempstead, Texas. From May 2022 to November 2024, she served as an assistant district attorney at the Montgomery County Criminal District Attorney's Office in Conroe, Texas. From March 2018 to May 2022, she served as an assistant district attorney at the Walker County Criminal District

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Attorney's Office in Huntsville, Texas. Judge Etienne is a member of the State Bar of Texas.

Jennifer R. Falcone, Immigration Judge, Miami Immigration Court

Jennifer R. Falcone was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in June 2026. Judge Falcone earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1993 from the University of Delaware and a Juris Doctor in 1996 from the George Washington University Law School. From May 2023 to May 2026, she served as the chief branch discipline counsel at The Florida Bar in Miami. From November 2006 to May 2023, she served as a senior bar counsel at The Florida Bar in Miami. From January 2004 to November 2006, she served as an assistant attorney general in the Office of the Attorney General for the State of Florida in Miami. From November 2002 to January 2004, she served as an assistant state attorney in the Monroe County State Attorney's Office in Key West, Florida. From February 1997 to November 2002, she served as an assistant commonwealth's attorney in the Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney in Portsmouth and Hampton, Virginia, respectively. Judge Falcone is a member of the Florida Bar.

Marla Gillman, Immigration Judge, New York – Federal Plaza Immigration Court

Marla Gillman was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in June 2026. Judge Gillman earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1996 from Florida State University, a Juris Doctorate in 2000 from Florida State University College of Law, and a Master of Laws in 2011 from George Washington University Law School. From July 2018 to September 2025, she served as a foreign service officer, U.S. Department of State in the following locations: Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea; Monterrey, Mexico; and Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. From February 2016 to July 2018, she served as an attorney advisor with various Department of War components. From April 2003 to February 2016, she served as a judge advocate in the U.S. Air Force at six locations: Joint Base Andrews, Maryland; Atlanta; Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, Washington, D.C.; Malmstrom Air Force Base, Montana; Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea; and Vandenberg Space Force Base, California. From March 2016 to April 2023, she served as a judge advocate in the U.S. Air Force Reserves, retiring at the rank of lieutenant colonel. Judge Gillman is a member of the Florida Bar.

Donna S. Gopaul, Immigration Court, Atlanta – W. Peachtree Street Immigration Court

Donna S. Gopaul was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in June 2026. Judge Gopaul earned a Bachelor of Arts, cum laude, in 2001 from Agnes Scott College and a Juris Doctor in 2006 from Thomas M. Cooley Law School. From September 2020 to May 2026, she served as assistant chief counsel with the Office of the Principal Legal Advisor, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, in Atlanta. From January 2017 to September 2020, she served as an assistant district attorney for the Griffin Judicial Circuit's District Attorney's office in Fayette, Spalding, Upson, and Pike counties. Judge Gopaul is a member of the State Bar of Georgia.

Ellaine Loreto Goss, Immigration Judge, Concord Immigration Court

Ellaine Loreto Goss was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in June 2026. Judge Goss earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1999 from the University of California, Los Angeles, and a Juris Doctor in 2005 from Chapman University Fowler School of Law. From July 2024 to May 2026, 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 (DHS), in Santa Ana, California. During this time, from February to May 2026, she served on a detail as a special assistant U.S. attorney with the U.S. Attorney's Office in Santa Ana. From December 2021 to July 2024, she was with the Los Angeles Asylum Office, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), DHS, serving in the following roles: acting supervisory asylum officer (September 2023-July 2024); and asylum officer (December 2021-September 2023). From January 2019 to December 2021, she served as an immigration services officer for the California Service Center, USCIS, DHS, in Laguna Niguel. From August 2009 to December 2018, she was the owner and managing attorney of the Law Offices of Ellaine Loreto PC in Orange, California. From April 2008 to September 2009, she was an attorney and managing partner at Loreto & Medina LLP in Orange, California. From February 2008 to April 2008, she was owner and managing attorney for Vita Nova LLP, in Orange, California. She concurrently worked as a contract attorney for various firms in Southern California, including Rawa Law Group APC, Mehr & Associates, and the Public Law Center. From June 2007 to February 2008, she was associate employment law counsel for Mehr & Alvandi PLC, in Irvine, California. From August 2006 to November 2006, she was an associate immigration attorney for Law Offices of Linda Lau, in Los Angeles. From December 2005 to August 2006, she was an associate immigration attorney for Law Offices of Gali Koren PLC, in Anaheim, California. Judge Goss is a member of the State Bar of California.

Ylani A. Hayes, Immigration Judge, Oakdale Immigration Court

Ylani A. Hayes was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in June 2026. Judge Hayes earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2013 from Jackson State University and a Doctor of Jurisprudence in 2016 from Mississippi College School of Law. From September 2018 to May 2026, she served as an attorney advisor for the Oakdale and LaSalle immigration courts, Executive Office for Immigration Review, Department of Justice. From September 2016 to September 2018, she served as a judicial law clerk and attorney advisor at the Oakdale Immigration Court entering on duty through the Attorney General's Honors Program. Judge Hayes is member of the Mississippi Bar.

Tanzania Jaysura, Immigration Judge, Boston Immigration Court

Tanzania Jaysura was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in June 2026. Judge Jaysura earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2004 from Clark Atlanta University and a Juris Doctor in 2014 from Wayne State University Law School. From November 2024 to May 2026, she served an assistant U.S. attorney at the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia in Alexandria, Virginia. From August 2004 to November 2024, she served as a commissioned officer and judge advocate in the U.S. Marine Corps before retiring honorably from active duty. Judge Jaysura is a member of the State Bar of Michigan.

James J. Jordan, Immigration Judge, Chelmsford Immigration Court

James J. Jordan was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in June 2026. Judge Jordan earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in 2003 from Marshall University and a Juris Doctor in 2007 from West Virginia University College of Law. From April 2025 to March 2026, he was of counsel at Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP in Huntington, West Virginia. From April 2023 to March 2025, he was a partner at Oxley Rich Sammons PLLC in Huntington, West Virginia. From June 2018 to March 2023, he was an attorney at Lamp Bartram Levy Trautwein & Perry PLLC in Huntington, West Virginia. From December 2012 to May 2018, he was an attorney at Anspach Meeks Ellenberger PLLC in Huntington, West Virginia. From May 2007 to November 2012, he was an attorney at Huddleston Bolen LLP in Huntington, West Virginia. Judge Jordan is a member of the Kentucky Bar and West Virginia State Bar.

Omar Z. Karram, Immigration Judge, Boston Immigration Court

Omar Z. Karram was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in June 2026. Judge Karram earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1996 from George Mason University and a Juris Doctorate in 2000 from the Florida Coastal School of Law. From February 2026 to May 2026, he served on detail as a special assistant U.S. attorney for the Minnesota Civil Division, and as an associate attorney for the Office of Chief Counsel, Strategic Litigation Division, Department of Homeland Security (DHS), at Headquarters Camp Springs, Maryland. From January 2022 to February 2026, he was a senior immigration service officer for adjudications and training at DHS Headquarters at Camp Springs, Maryland. From July 2020 to January 2022, he served on a detail as an associate for the Office of Chief Counsel, DHS, at Headquarters Camp Springs, Maryland. From July 2019 to July 2020, he served on detail as a special U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement trial attorney with the Office of the Principal Legal Advisor, DHS, in Arlington, Virginia. From June 2007 to July 2019, he was with DHS U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services serving in various roles at the Washington and Baltimore field offices and Service Center Operations. From June 2003 to June 2007, he was an attorney at Loewinger and Brand PLLC, and James Brown and Associates PLLC, respectively, in Washington D.C. Judge Karram is a member of the Florida Bar and District of Columbia Bar.

James W. Kitchen, Immigration Judge, New York – Federal Plaza Immigration Court

James W. Kitchen was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in June 2026. Judge Kitchen earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1998 from Ohio State University, a Juris Doctor in 2008 from Capital University Law School, and a Master of Laws in 2015 from the Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School. From July 2022 to June 2026, he served as a special assistant U.S. attorney at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio. From November 2021 to July 2022, he served as an attorney advisor at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. From September 2020 to November 2021, he served as the Command judge advocate at Detroit Arsenal in Detroit. From July 2018 to September 2020, he served as chief, Administrative Law, at the 1st Theater Sustainment Command at Fort Knox, Kentucky. From July 2016 to July 2018, he served as the senior defense counsel at Fort Drum, New York. From July 2013 to July 2015, he served as chief, Military Justice, for the U.S. Army Recruiting Command at Fort Knox,

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Kentucky. From April 2011 to July 2013, he served as a trial counsel for 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. From April 2010 to April 2011, he served as the chief, Detention Operations, in Bagram, Afghanistan. Judge Kitchen is a member of the Ohio State Bar.

Melynda Leigh LaBrosse, Immigration Judge, LaSalle Immigration Court

Melynda Leigh LaBrosse was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in June 2026. Judge LaBrosse earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2008 from the University of New Orleans and a Juris Doctor in 2013 from Loyola University New Orleans. From October 2013 through May 2026, she served as the senior staff attorney in the Covington District Office of the Office of Administrative Law Judges for the U.S. Department of Labor in Covington, Louisiana. Judge LaBrosse is a member of the Louisiana State Bar.

Vincent Malainy, Immigration Judge, El Paso Immigration Court

Vincent Malainy was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in June 2026. Judge Malainy earned a Bachelor of Science in 2013 from Eastern Michigan University and a Juris Doctor in 2016 from the Michael E. Moritz College of Law at Ohio State University. From February 2023 to May 2026, he served as an assistant counsel in the Office of General Counsel for the Defense Finance and Accounting Service at the Department of War in Indianapolis. From January 2017 to July 2022, he served as a judge advocate in the U.S. Army in the following assignments/locations: military justice advisor, administrative law attorney, legal assistance attorney, Fort Bliss, Texas; command judge advocate, Paktia, Afghanistan; and trial defense counsel, Fort Hood, Texas. Judge Malainy is a member of the State Bar of Michigan.

Victoria E. Mendoza, Immigration Judge, Laredo Immigration Court

Victoria E. Mendoza was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in June 2026. Judge Mendoza earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in 2013 from the University of Texas at Austin and a Juris Doctor in 2016 from Thurgood Marshall School of Law. From October 2025 to May 2026, she served as 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 Houston. From January 2024 to October 2025, she served as an administrative law judge for the State of Texas. From November 2020 to December 2023, she was in private practice in Houston. From March 2020 to November 2020, she served as a staff attorney for the Texas Department of Public Safety. From May 2017 to March 2020, she served as an assistant district attorney in Cameron County, Texas. From November 2016 to May 2017, she was in private practice in Harlingen. Judge Mendoza is a member of the State Bar of Texas.

Marion S. Mishkin, Immigration Judge, New York – Federal Plaza Immigration Court

Marion S. Mishkin was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in June 2026. Judge Mishkin earned a Bachelor of Arts from the School of Visual Arts in New York and a Juris Doctorate from the New York Law School. From June 2013 to

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June 2026, she was a principal attorney at Marion S. Mishkin PLLC. From December 2002 to June 2026, she also worked as of counsel to New York based civil litigation law firms, including Sacks & Sacks LLP, Subin LLP, and Paul D. Weitz & Associates PC. Over the period of June 2003 to September 2013, she served as a lead and court appointed liaison counsel in the consolidated, post-September 11, 2001, state court World Trade Center cases and the multi-district federal court In re: World Trade Center Disaster Site Litigation. From June 1994 to November 2001, she worked as an associate attorney for several New York-based law firms, including Fuchsberg & Fuchsberg. Judge Mishkin is a member of the Connecticut Bar and New York State Bar.

Kyle V. Mitchell, Immigration Judge, Miami Immigration Court

Kyle V. Mitchell was appointed as an immigration judge in June 2026. Judge Mitchell was previously appointed as a temporary immigration judge and began hearing cases in November 2025. From 2021 to 2025, he served in various attorney positions with the Federal government. From 2015 to 2021, he served in leadership positions at a prominent Texas non-profit. From 2006 to 2015, he served in the executive branch of state government for the State of Texas. From 2000 to 2006, he served as an attorney in state government for the State of Florida and a distinguished law firm. Since 2003, Judge Mitchell has served as a Judge Advocate in the U.S. Army Reserve, the Texas National Guard, and the U.S. Army.

Adam R. Morris, Immigration Judge, Concord Immigration Court

Adam R. Morris was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in June 2026. Judge Morris earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2013 from Wabash College and a Juris Doctorate in 2018 from Willamette University College of Law. From April 2022 to May 2026, he was an assistant chief counsel with the Office of the Principal Legal Advisor, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, in Phoenix. From February 2021 to December 2021, he was a solo practitioner at Morris Immigration Law PLLC. From April 2019 to September 2020, he was an immigration services officer with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, DHS, in San Jose, California. Judge Morris is a member of the Oregon State Bar.

Robert S. Moskow II, Immigration Judge, New York – Federal Plaza Immigration Court

Robert S. Moskow II was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in June 2026. Judge Moskow earned a Bachelor of Science in 1990 from the E. Claiborne Robins School of Business at the University of Richmond and a Juris Doctor in 1996 from St. John's University School of Law. From November 2018 to May 2026, he owned and operated a consulting business. From March 2001 to October 2018, he was an associate and then of counsel at McElroy, Deutsch, Mulvaney & Carpenter LLP in Morristown, New Jersey. From May 1998 to May 2000, he was an associate at Polsinelli, White, Vardeman & Shalton PC in Overland Park, Kansas. From January 1997 to January 1998, he was an associate with Farrell, Fritz PC in Uniondale, New York. From August 1991 to July 1993, he worked on Wall Street for the legal department at Prudential Mutual Fund Management. Judge Moskow is a member of the New York State Bar.

Julian R. Nierva, Immigration Judge, Chelmsford Immigration Court

Julian R. Nierva was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in June 2026. Judge Nierva earned a Bachelor of Science in 1992 from St. John's University and a Juris Doctor in 1995 from Quinnipiac University School of Law. From August 2009 to May 2026, he served in active guard and reserve status in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps holding the rank of colonel, with his final assignment being staff judge advocate for the Military Intelligence Readiness Command at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, from August 2024 to May 2026. From June 2021 to July 2024, he served as chief of reserve component management, Office of The Judge Advocate General, Headquarters, Department of the Army at the Pentagon, and as staff judge advocate for the Army Reserve's Third Medical Command. From February 2005 to August 2009, he was a solo practitioner in the Law Office of Julian Nierva in New York, New York. From April 2001 to February 2005, he served as administrative counsel for the New York City Fire Department. From June 1997 to April 2001 as an assistant district attorney in Richmond County, New York. Judge Nierva is a member of the New Jersey State Bar and New York State Bar.

Courtenay Patterson, Immigration Judge, LaSalle Immigration Court

Courtenay Patterson was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in June 2026. Judge Patterson earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2001 from the University of Colorado and a Juris Doctor in 2004 from the Santa Clara University School of Law. From October 2015 to May 2026, she was a solo practitioner in Longmont, Colorado, in federal civil litigation and state criminal defense. From September 2019 to August 2024, she served as an associate judge for the cities of Fort Collins, Loveland, Longmont, Parker and Thornton, Colorado. From February 2019 to November 2020, she served as an assistant city attorney for the City of Arvada, Colorado. From March 2010 to November 2011, she was in private practice in Walnut Creek, California, in local government defense. From December 2004 to March 2010, she served as a deputy district attorney in Contra Costa County, California. Judge Patterson is a member of the Colorado Bar and State Bar of California.

Robbin E. Perkins, Immigration Judge, Chicago Immigration Court

Robbin E. Perkins was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in June 2026. Judge Perkins earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1983 from Fisk University and a Juris Doctor in 1996 from Chicago-Kent College of Law. In 2021, she served as administrative law judge with the State of Illinois Department of Employment Security in Chicago. From 2009 to 2021, she served as administrative law judge for the Village of Matteson, Illinois. During this time from 2001 to 2017, she also served with the Office of the Cook County Clerk of the Circuit Court holding the positions of chief deputy clerk 6th municipal district, deputy general counsel, chief deputy general counsel, and chief human resources officer, respectively. From 1997 to 2001, she served as litigation attorney and guardian ad litem with the Office of the Cook County Public Guardian. Judge Perkins is a member of the Illinois State Bar.

Christian Michael Pressman, Immigration Judge, Miami Immigration Court

Christian Michael Pressman was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in June 2026. Judge Pressman earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1993 from the University of Miami, and a Juris Doctor in 1999 and a Legum Magister in 2000, both from the University of Miami School of Law. From December 2018 to September 2025, he served as an immigration judge at the Imperial Immigration Court and the Miami Immigration Court. From March 2003 to December 2018, 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 September 2002 to March 2003, he served as an assistant district counsel with the former Immigration and Naturalization Service in Miami entering on duty through the Attorney General's Honors Program. From August 2000 to September 2002, he served as a judicial law clerk for the Honorable Judge Norman C. Roettger Jr., U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida, in Ft. Lauderdale. Judge Pressman is a member of the Florida Bar.

Brittany A. Rodriquez, Immigration Judge, San Antonio Immigration Court

Brittany A. Rodriquez was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in June 2026. Judge Rodriquez earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2015 from Texas Tech University and a Doctor of Jurisprudence in 2019 from the Texas Tech University School of Law. From August 2020 to May 2026, 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 Chaparral, New Mexico. Judge Rodriquez is a member of the State Bar of Texas.

Laurie Samuels, Immigration Judge, New York – Federal Plaza Immigration Court

Laurie Samuels was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in June 2026. Judge Samuels earned a Bachelor of Science in 2001 from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a Juris Doctor in 2006 from the University of Illinois College of Law. From September 2008 to June 2026, she was an attorney in private practice in Chicago. From August 2024 to May 2026, she served as an administrative law judge for the Village of Oak Park, Illinois. From December 2016 to December 2023, she served as an administrative law judge for the Department of Administrative Hearings, City of Chicago, Illinois. During this time, she also served as an arbitrator for the Department of Mandatory Arbitration, Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois. From May 2005 to May 2006, she served as a law clerk for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Central District of Illinois in Urbana. Judge Samuels is a member of the State Bar of Georgia and Illinois State Bar.

Andrew F. Scafidi, Immigration Judge, Concord Immigration Court

Andrew F. Scafidi was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in June 2026. Judge Scafidi earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1995 from Northern Illinois University and a Juris Doctorate in 2001 from Regent University School of Law. From February 2021 to May 2026, he was an administrative law attorney for the U.S. Army in Mountain View, California. From January 2002 to August 2020, he served as an army judge advocate in numerous locations including Fort Knox, Kentucky, Fort Riley,

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Kansas, and Fort Drum, New York, holding various positions, including deputy staff judge advocate, chief of military justice, senior criminal defense counsel, and part-time military magistrate. From August 1987 to August 1992, he served in the U.S. Marine Corps. Judge Scafidi is a member of the District of Columbia Bar.

Norman J. Schroth, Immigration Judge, Cleveland Immigration Court

Norman J. Schroth was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in June 2026. Judge Schroth earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1996 from SUNY Fredonia, a Master of Science in 1998 from Ohio University, a Master of Arts in 2001 from Slippery Rock University, and a Juris Doctor in 2006 from Cleveland State University. From April 2020 to May 2026, he served as counsel with the Office of the Principal Legal Advisor, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, in the Cleveland and Chicago offices. From January 2016 to April 2020, he served as an attorney advisor with the Office of Medicare Hearings and Appeals, Department of Health and Human Services, in Cleveland. From November 2006 to January 2016, he served as an assistant prosecuting attorney with the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office in Cleveland and the Summit County Prosecutor's Office in Akron. Judge Schroth is a member of the Ohio State Bar.

Chris Staszak, Immigration Judge, Buffalo Immigration Court

Chris Staszak was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in June 2026. Judge Staszak earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1992 from St. Lawrence University and a Juris Doctor in 2000 from New York Law School. From November 2025 to May 2026, he served as counsel and assistant chief counsel with the Office of the Principal Legal Advisor, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Department of Homeland Security, in New Windsor, New York. From December 2002 to November 2021, he served as a senior investigative counsel with the U.S. House of Representatives, a senior investigative counsel with the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, a senior attorney with the Office of Inspector General, U.S. Social Security Administration, and as a law clerk with the U.S. District Court, Northern District of New York. From December 2021 to October 2025, he held senior legal and compliance roles in the tech/gaming industry. From August 2006 to March 2009, he was an associate in the Washington, D.C. office of an international law firm. Judge Staszak is a member of the District of Columbia Bar and New York State Bar.

Tod M. Thedy, Immigration Judge, El Paso Immigration Court

Tod M. Thedy was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in June 2026. Judge Thedy earned a Bachelor of Science in 1976 from the U.S. Naval Academy and a Juris Doctor in 1983 from Loyola University New Orleans. From April 1999 to March 2017, he served as a foreign service officer with the U.S. Department of State which included overseas tours of duty in Thailand, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Mexico, Pakistan, Yemen, and Canada, with temporary travel to numerous other countries. From September 1978 to April 1999, he was assistant chief deputy and later general counsel to the Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office (Civil) in New Orleans. Concurrently, he was a New Orleans Police lieutenant from 1983 to 1997. Previously, he served as an officer in the U.S. Navy. Judge Thedy is a member of the Louisiana State Bar.

William Velez Quinones, Immigration Judge, Laredo Immigration Court

William Velez Quinones was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in June 2026. Judge Velez earned a Bachelor of Science in 2011 from Inter American University of Puerto Rico, a Juris Doctor in 2014 from Inter American University of Puerto Rico School of Law, and a Master of Business Administration in 2022 from the University of Texas Permian Basin. From September 2023 to June 2026, 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 (DHS), in Houston. From January 2020 to September 2023, he served as a senior asylum officer with the Asylum Division, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, DHS, in Houston. From April 2016 to January 2020, he served as an asylum officer with the Asylum Division, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, DHS, in Houston. From June 2015 to April 2016, he served as a loan specialist with Rural Development, U.S. Department of Agriculture, in Caguas, Puerto Rico. From June 2004 to May 2009, he served in the U.S. Navy. Judge Velez is a member of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico Bar and State Bar of Texas.

Tamara S. Wallen, Immigration Judge, Honolulu Immigration Court

Tamara S. Wallen was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in June 2026. Judge Wallen earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1997 from Ohio State University, a Juris Doctor in 2005 from New England School of Law, and a Master of Laws in 2026 from the William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. From 2005 to 2025, she served on active duty with the U.S. Coast Guard as a judge advocate attaining the rank of captain prior to her retirement from military service. Judge Wallen served as a senior prosecutor, military trial judge, and chief circuit judge for the Western Judicial Circuit U.S. Coast Guard Trial Judiciary. Judge Wallen is a member of the Hawaii State Bar and Massachusetts Bar.

Barbara L. Whelan, Immigration Judge, Dallas Immigration Court

Barbara L. Whelan was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in June 2026. Judge Whelan earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1986 from Concordia College and a Juris Doctorate in 1990 from the University of Baltimore School of Law. From 2017 to April 2026, she served as a district court judge for the Northeast Judicial District of North Dakota, after serving as a state's attorney for Walsh County since 2006. From November 1990 to 2005, she was in private practice in Baltimore, Maryland (1990-1992), and in Grafton, North Dakota (1994-1999), and also served as a part-time state's attorney in Adams County, North Dakota (1993-1994), and from 1995, as an assistant state's attorney for Walsh County, North Dakota. Beginning in 1999, she served as a full-time state's attorney for Pembina County, North Dakota. Judge Whelan is a member of the State Bar of North Dakota.

Kirk Williams, Immigration Judge, Otero Immigration Court

Kirk Williams was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in June 2026. Judge Williams earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2016 from the University of Missouri-Kansas City and a Juris Doctor in 2018 from the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law. From September 2023 to May 2026, he served as an assistant U.S.

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attorney with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of New Mexico, in Las Cruces. From August 2019 to September 2023, he served as an assistant district attorney with the Fifth Judicial District Attorney's Office in Lovington, New Mexico. From June 2009 to February 2013, he served on active duty in the U.S. Army as an infantryman. Judge Williams is a member of the Missouri Bar.

Temporary Immigration Judges

Chad Bayse, Temporary Immigration Judge, Stewart Immigration Court

Chad Bayse was appointed as a temporary immigration judge to begin hearing cases in June 2026. Judge Bayse earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2002 from Carleton College and a Juris Doctor in 2005, magna cum laude, from William Mitchell College of Law where he received the President's Scholarship and was editor in chief of the William Mitchell Law Review. From August 2007 to June 2026, he served as a judge advocate in the U.S. Navy on active duty at various commands and locations and currently serves in the Selected Reserve. From October 2023 to May 2026, he served as an attorney advisor for the U.S. Navy's Camp Lejeune Claims Unit at the Washington Navy Yard. From July 2012 to December 2018, he served as an attorney advisor at the National Security Agency in Fort Meade, Maryland. From September to November 2018, he served on detail with the Office of the Attorney General in Washington, D.C. From December 2006 to June 2007, he was an associate at Severson, Sheldon, Daugherty, and Molenda PA in Apple Valley, Minnesota. From July 2005 to September 2006, he served as a law clerk at the Minnesota Court of Appeals in Saint Paul. Judge Bayse is a member of the Florida Bar and Minnesota State Bar.

Joshua Bennett, Temporary Immigration Judge, Annandale Immigration Court

Joshua Bennett was appointed as a temporary immigration judge to begin hearing cases in June 2026. Judge Bennett earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2003 from the University of Florida and a Juris Doctor in 2012 from the University of Notre Dame Law School. Since 2012, he has served as a Navy judge advocate at Naval Station Great Lakes, on board USS Abraham Lincoln while homeported in Norfolk, Virginia, and in Washington, D.C. Prior to law school, Judge Bennett also served as a surface warfare officer on a destroyer based out of San Diego, California, and on a fleet headquarters staff in Norfolk, Virginia. Judge Bennett holds the rank of commander in the U.S. Navy and is a member of the District of Columbia Bar and Florida Bar.

Scott F. Hallauer, Temporary Immigration Judge, New York – Federal Plaza Immigration Court

Scott F. Hallauer was appointed as a temporary immigration judge to begin hearing cases in June 2026. Judge Hallauer earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1994 from Radford University and a Juris Doctor in 1998 from Loyola University New Orleans School of Law. From June 2006 to May 2026, he was the founder and principal attorney for the Hallauer Law Firm in Virginia Beach, Virginia. From June 2002 to June 2005, he served as assistant commonwealth's attorney in Norfolk and Virginia Beach, Virginia. From June 1999 to May 2026, he served as a judge advocate in the U.S. Navy and Navy Reserves in the following positions: defense attorney, Naval Legal Service Office,

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Norfolk, Virginia; staff judge advocate, Naval Support Activity, New Orleans; legal assistance attorney, Naval Legal Service Office, Norfolk, Virginia; staff judge advocate, Network Warfare Command, Norfolk, Virginia; executive officer, Regional Legal Service Office, Norfolk, Virginia; fleet judge advocate, at U.S. Fleet Forces Command, Norfolk, Virginia; legal assistance attorney, Regional Legal Service Office, Yokosuka, Japan; appellate defense attorney, Appellate Defense Activity, Washington D.C., appellate government attorney, Appellate Government Activity, Washington D.C.; and national security law attorney, Office of the Judge Advocate General, Washington D.C. Judge Hallauer holds the rank of captain in the U.S. Navy. Judge Hallauer is a member of the Virginia State Bar and North Carolina Bar.

Toren G. Mushovic, Temporary Immigration Judge, Denver Immigration Court

Toren G. Mushovic was appointed as a temporary immigration judge to begin hearing cases in June 2026. Judge Mushovic earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2000 from Tulane University, a Juris Doctor in 2007 from UCLA School of Law, and a Master of Strategic Studies in 2025 from the U.S. Army War College. From April 2021 to May 2026, in his civilian capacity, he served as vice president, associate counsel at Soleo Health. From April 2016 to April 2021, he served as chief operating & compliance officer at IMMUNOe Health & Research Centers and general counsel of Veros Biologics in Denver. From November 2014 to April 2016, he served as an associate at Wheeler Trigg O'Donnell LLP in Denver. From October 2012 to November 2014, he served as an associate at Hogan Lovells US LLP in Denver. From September 2007 to May 2026, in his military capacity, he served as staff judge advocate, defense counsel, trial counsel, and appellate counsel in various locations. Judge Mushovic holds the rank of commander in the U.S. Navy. Judge Mushovic is a member of the Colorado Bar.

Marvin E. Richards, Temporary Immigration Judge, Los Angeles – Van Nuys Boulevard Immigration Court

Marvin E. Richards was appointed as a temporary immigration judge to begin hearing cases in June 2026. Judge Richards earned a Bachelor of Science in 1993 from the University of Illinois-Chicago, a Master of Business Administration in 1995 from Governors State University in University Park, Illinois, and a Juris Doctor in 1998 from the University of Illinois College of Law in Champaign. From October 2020 to May 2026, he served as general counsel at two universities in southern California. From April 2019 to October 2020, he was general counsel at the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority in Cleveland. From September 2009 to April 2019, he was an executive director at Cuyahoga Community College in Cleveland. From 2007 to 2009, he was a litigation associate at Roetzel and Andres LPA in Akron, Ohio. From 2005 to 2007, he was a litigation associate at Janik and Dorman LLP in Broadview Heights, Ohio. From December 2001 to November 2004, he was a litigation associate at Goldsberry, Freeman, Guzman and Ditora LLP in Sacramento, California. From 1998 to 2001, he served as an active-duty judge advocate with the U.S. Navy, and continues to serve in the U.S. Navy Reserve, where he holds the rank of captain. From 1993 to 1995, he served as a staff assistant for the Honorable Paul Simon, U.S. Senator of Illinois. Judge Richards is a member of the State Bar of California and Ohio State Bar.

Jason Weissman, Temporary Immigration Judge, New York – Federal Plaza Immigration Court

Jason Weissman was appointed as a temporary immigration judge to begin hearing cases in June 2026. Judge Weissman earned a Bachelor of Science in 1994 from the University of Miami and a Juris Doctor in 1997 from the University of Miami School of Law. From April 2024 to May 2026, he served as a general attorney at the Naval Reserve Civil Law unit, Judge Advocate General's Corps, Department of the Navy. From June 2022 to May 2026, he was also the regional vice president of staff legal at The Hartford Financial Services Group in Sunrise, Florida, after serving as the managing attorney of Florida staff legal from March 2012 to June 2022 in Hollywood, Florida. From March 2021 to March 2024, he served as commanding officer of the Naval Reserve Navy-Marine Corps Appellate Review Activity. From December 2017 to February 2021, he served as a general attorney at Naval Reserve Chief of Naval Personnel/Navy Personnel Command Legal. From December 2013 to November 2017, he served as executive officer at the Naval Reserve Regional Legal Service Office EURAFSWA and Naval Reserve Regional Legal Service Office Hawaii. From December 2011 to November 2013, he served as staff judge advocate with Naval Reserve Commander Naval Region Japan and Naval Reserve Regional Legal Service Office Japan. From January 2009 to November 2011, he served as a legal assistance attorney at Naval Reserve Legal Service Office Southeast. From July 2003 to March 2012, he was also a shareholder at Fowler White Burnett PA in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. From November 2002 to December 2008, he served as an attorney at Naval Reserve NAVJAG 108, Office of the Judge Advocate General (Code 20). From September 2001 to July 2003, he was an associate attorney at Kaye, Rose & Maltzman LLP in Miami. From June 2000 to September 2001, he served as an appellate defense attorney at the Office of the Judge Advocate General (Code 45) at the Washington Navy Yard. From August 1998 to June 2000, he served as branch head of Naval Legal Service Office Southeast, Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico. Judge Weissman holds the rank of captain. Judge Weissman is a member of the Florida Bar.

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