



U.S. Department of Justice
Executive Office for Immigration Review
Office of Policy
5107 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church, Virginia 22041

NOTICE

Contact: Communications and Legislative Affairs Division
Phone: 703-305-0289
PAO.EOIR@usdoj.gov @DOJ_EOIR
www.justice.gov/eoir

March 18, 2019

Executive Office for Immigration Review Swears in 31 Immigration Judges

FALLS CHURCH, VA – The Executive Office for Immigration Review today announced the investiture of 31 new immigration judges. Deputy Attorney Rod. J. Rosenstein delivered the opening remarks and Principal Deputy Chief Immigration Judge Christopher A. Santoro presided over the investiture during a ceremony held March 15, 2019, at the Department of Justice’s Great Hall in Washington D.C.

After a thorough application process, then-Acting Attorney General Matthew Whitaker appointed Kyung S. Auh, Mary C. Baumgarten, Sam Brown IV, Shayne R. Burnham, Shana W. Chen, John W. Cortes, Elizabeth A. Cottor, Craig A. Defoe, Julia Diaz-Rex, Eric L. Dillow, Donald R. Eller Jr., Melissa Joy Garcia, Paul A. Hable, Monte J. Horton, Shane E. Johnson, Carrie C. Johnson-Papillo, David M. Jones, Joy Lampley-Fortson, Wynne P. Kelly, Anwer A. Khan, Kelly B. Lake, Anna C. Little, Lolita M. Lukose, Elizabeth Martinez, Jeffrey L. Menkin, Joy A. Merriman, Walter L. “Bud” Paulissen, Christian M. Pressman, Francisco R. Prieto, Jerome M. Rothschild Jr., and Tamar H. Wilson to their new positions.

Biographical information follows:

Assistant Chief Immigration Judges

Eric L. Dillow, Assistant Chief Immigration Judge, Harlingen and Port Isabel Immigration Courts

Then-Acting Attorney General Matthew Whitaker appointed Eric L. Dillow to begin supervisory court duties and hearing cases in March 2019. Judge Dillow will oversee the Harlingen and Port Isabel immigration courts. Judge Dillow earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1986 from the University of Illinois, a Juris Doctor in 1990 from the University of Nebraska College of Law, and a Master of Urban Planning in 1992 from the University of Illinois. From 2012 to 2018, he served as a veteran advocate and veteran’s treatment court mentor trainer for the Douglas County Veterans Treatment Court, Omaha, Nebraska, and the Lancaster County Veterans Treatment Court, Lincoln, Nebraska. From 1990 until he retired as a colonel and judge advocate in 2012, he served as a judge advocate for the U.S. Air Force in the following locations: Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota; Travis Air Force Base, California; Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska; Ahmad al-Jaber Air Base, Kuwait; HQ, AIRSOUTH, Naples, Italy; Fairchild Air Force Base, Washington;

Yokota Air Base, Japan; Task Force 134, Baghdad, Iraq; Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, D.C.; Kabul, Afghanistan; and Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico. Judge Dillow is a member of the Nebraska State Bar.

Carrie C. Johnson-Papillo, Assistant Chief Immigration Judge, Elizabeth and Newark Immigration Courts

Then-Acting Attorney General Matthew Whitaker appointed Carrie C. Johnson-Papillo to begin supervisory immigration court duties and hearing cases in March 2019. She will oversee the Elizabeth and Newark immigration courts. Judge Johnson-Papillo earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2000 from Fairfield University and a Juris Doctor in 2003 from Washington University School of Law in Saint Louis. From 2008 to 2018, she served as a deputy chief counsel with the Office of Chief Counsel (OCC), Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), in New York. From 2005 to 2008, she served as the deputy chief in the Knowledge Management Division, Office of the Principal Legal Advisor, ICE, DHS, in Washington D.C. From 2003 to 2005, she served as an assistant chief counsel, OCC, ICE, DHS, first in Newark and later in New York. Judge Johnson-Papillo is a member of the State Bar of New York.

David M. Jones, Assistant Chief Immigration Judge, Baltimore Immigration Court

Then-Acting Attorney General Matthew Whitaker appointed David M. Jones to begin supervisory immigration court duties and hearing cases in March 2019. He will oversee the Baltimore Immigration Court. Judge Jones received a Bachelor of Arts in 1988 from Brigham Young University and a Juris Doctor in 1992 from the J. Reuben Clark Law School, Brigham Young University. He also received a Masters of Law in Military Law (criminal) in 2003 from The Judge Advocate General's School of the U.S. Army. Prior to his appointment, Judge Jones served 26 years on active duty as a judge advocate in the U.S. Marine Corps, where he spent almost his entire career litigating and adjudicating criminal cases. Upon his retirement, Judge Jones was serving as an appellate judge on the Navy-Marine Corps Court of Criminal Appeals. Prior to that, he served 11 years as a criminal trial judge, and an additional 11 years in a variety of prosecution and defense billets. Judge Jones is a member of the Utah State Bar.

Joy Lampley-Fortson, Assistant Chief Immigration Judge, New Orleans Immigration Court

Then-Acting Attorney General Matthew Whitaker appointed Joy Lampley-Fortson to begin supervisory immigration court duties and hearing cases in March 2019. She will oversee the LaSalle, New Orleans and Oakdale immigration courts. Judge Lampley-Fortson earned a Bachelor of Science in 1992 from the University of Florida and a Juris Doctor in 1996 from the University of Florida College of Law. From 2017 to 2019, she served as the executive director of the Georgia Commission on Equal Opportunity by appointment of the governor. From 2007 to 2017, she served as a trial attorney/assistant chief counsel with Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, in Atlanta. From 2001 to 2007, she served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Northern District of Georgia. From 1997 to 2001, she served as an assistant solicitor with the Office of the City Solicitor in Atlanta. Judge Lampley-Fortson is a member of the State Bar of Georgia.

Immigration Judges

Kyung S. Auh, Immigration Judge, Fishkill Immigration Court

Then-Acting Attorney General Matthew Whitaker appointed Kyung S. Auh to begin hearing cases in March 2019. Judge Auh earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2002 from the State University of New York at Binghamton, and a Juris Doctor in 2010 from the City of New York University School of Law. From 2012 to 2019, Judge Auh served as a judge advocate assigned to the New York Air National Guard and the Florida Air National Guard at the following locations: Long Island, New York; St. Augustine, Florida; and Rome, New York. From 2016 to 2018, he served as an assistant chief counsel for the Office of Chief Counsel, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, in Miami. From 2010 to 2016, he served as an assistant district attorney with the Queens County District Attorney's Office in Kew Gardens, New York. From 2007 to 2012, he held various headquarters staff positions with the New York Air National Guard in Long Island, New York. From 2003 to 2007, he served in the Air Force on active duty while stationed at Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida, and Robins Air Force Base, Georgia. Judge Auh is a member of the New York State Bar.

Mary C. Baumgarten, Immigration Judge, Buffalo Immigration Court

Then-Acting Attorney General Matthew Whitaker appointed Mary C. Baumgarten to begin hearing cases in March 2019. Judge Baumgarten earned a Bachelor of Science in 1985 from the University of Notre Dame and a Juris Doctor in 1989 from the State University of New York at Buffalo Law School. From 1989 to 1995, Judge Baumgarten served as an associate at Nixon Hargrave Devaus & Doyle. From 1995 to 2002, she served as an assistant attorney general for the New York State Office of the Attorney General. From 2002 to 2004, she served as a law clerk under the Honorable William M. Skretny, U.S. District Court, Western District of New York. From 2004 to 2007, she served as a confidential law clerk for the Honorable Erin M. Peradotto, Appellate Division, 4th Department. From 2007 through 2018, she served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Western District of New York. Judge Baumgarten is a member of the New York Bar.

Sam Brown IV, Immigration Judge, Houston Immigration Court

Then-Acting Attorney General Matthew Whitaker appointed Sam Brown IV to begin hearing cases in March 2019. Judge Brown earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1999 from Emory University and a Juris Doctor in 2005 from Mercer University School of Law. From 2005 to 2007, he served as a gun crime prosecutor for Project Safe Neighborhoods in the Macon, Georgia, Judicial Circuit. From 2007 to 2008, he served as an assistant district attorney in the Dublin, Georgia, Judicial Circuit. From 2008 to 2011, he served as an assistant district attorney in the Stone Mountain, Georgia, Judicial Circuit. From 2011 to 2019, he served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Southern District of Texas. Judge Brown is a member of the State Bar of Georgia.

Shayne R. Burnham, Immigration Judge, Varick Street Immigration Court

Then-Acting Attorney General Matthew Whitaker appointed Shayne R. Burnham to begin hearing cases in March 2019. Judge Burnham earned a Bachelor of Science in 2005 from the

Pennsylvania State University and a Juris Doctor in 2010 from Syracuse University College of Law. From 2016 to 2019, she served as an assistant chief counsel for the Office of the Chief Counsel, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, in Miami. From 2011 to 2016, she served as an assistant attorney general for the Florida Office of Criminal Appeals Division. Judge Burnham is a member of the Florida Bar.

Shana W. Chen, Immigration Judge, Newark Immigration Court

Then-Acting Attorney General Matthew Whitaker appointed Shana W. Chen to begin hearing cases in March 2019. Judge Chen earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1998 from the University of California, Berkeley, and a Juris Doctor in 2001 from the Georgetown University Law Center. From 2006 to 2019, Judge Chen served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the District of New Jersey. From 2004 to 2005, she was a judicial law clerk in the Southern District of New York. From 2001 through 2004, Judge Chen worked as a litigation associate at two private law firms in New York City, McDermott, Will & Emery and Curtis, and Mallet-Prevost, Colt & Mosle. Judge Chen is a member of the New Jersey and New York State Bars.

John W. Cortes, Immigration Judge, Varick Street Immigration Court

Then-Acting Attorney General Matthew Whitaker appointed John W. Cortes to begin hearing cases in March 2019. Judge Cortes earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1999 from the City University of New York at Brooklyn College and a Juris Doctor in 2002 at the New York Law School. From 2003 to 2018, he served as an assistant district attorney for the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office, and from 2013 to 2018, he served as a principal assistant district attorney for the same court. Judge Cortes is a member of the State Bar of Arizona and New York State Bar.

Elizabeth A. Cottor, Immigration Judge, Phoenix Immigration Court

Then-Acting Attorney General Matthew Whitaker appointed Elizabeth A. Cottor to begin hearing cases in March 2019. Judge Cottor earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1992 from University of Arizona and a Juris Doctor in 1996 from the William Mitchell School of Law. From 2005 to 2019, she served as a deputy county attorney (DCA) with the Maricopa County Attorney's Office (MCAO), in Phoenix. From 2003 to 2005, she was an attorney with Ryley, Carlock & Applewhite P.A., in Phoenix. From 2000 to 2003, she was an attorney with Burch & Cracchiolo P.A., in Phoenix. In 2003, she was an adjunct professor with the Grand Canyon University in Phoenix. From 1998 to 2000, she served as a DCA with MCAO. From 1996 to 1998, she served as an attorney with the Securities Division of the Arizona Corporation Commission in Phoenix. Judge Cottor is a member of the State Bar of Arizona.

Craig A. Defoe, Immigration Judge, Chicago Immigration Court

Then-Acting Attorney General Matthew Whitaker appointed Craig A. Defoe to begin hearing cases in March 2019. Judge Defoe earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2004 from Washington University in Saint Louis and a Juris Doctor in 2007 from Indiana University, McKinney School of Law. From 2016 to 2019, he served as an attorney with the Office of Chief Counsel, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, in Chicago. From 2009 to 2016, he served as a trial attorney for the Office of Immigration Litigation (OIL), Civil Division,

Department of Justice. He joined OIL through the Attorney General's Honors Program. From 2007 to 2009, he served as a staff attorney in the Staff Attorney's Office, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, in Atlanta. Judge Defoe is a member of the Indiana State Bar.

Julia Diaz-Rex, Immigration Judge, San Juan Immigration Court

Then-Acting Attorney General Matthew Whitaker appointed Julia Diaz-Rex to begin hearing cases in March 2019. Judge Diaz-Rex earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1990 from Florida International University, a Juris Doctor in 1993 from Western Michigan University Thomas M. Cooley Law School, and a Master of Science in 2015 from the U.S. Army War College. From 2005 to 2019, Judge Diaz-Rex served as an assistant U.S. attorney in various capacities for the U.S. Attorney's Office in San Juan, Puerto Rico, including chief of the narcotics unit from 2015 to 2019; a senior trial attorney in the major crimes unit from 2012 to 2015; and an assistant U.S. attorney in the financial and economic crimes unit from 2005 to 2012. From 1999 to present, Judge Diaz-Rex served in various capacities in the U.S. Army Reserve, Army National Guard, and the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve, including as a military judge from 2017 to 2019, in Alexandria, Virginia; security justice advisor in 2017, in Jerusalem, Israel; commander of the 174th Legal Operations Detachment from 2015 to 2017, in Miami; staff judge advocate of the 1st Mission Support Command from 2012 to 2015, at Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico; command judge advocate of the 210th Regional Support Group from 2009 to 2011, in Aguadilla, Puerto Rico; chief of justice of 174th Legal Operations Detachment attached to 1st Mission Support Command from 2006 to 2009, at Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico; staff judge advocate in the Army National Guard from 2001 to 2006, in Ohio and Puerto Rico; judge advocate in the 9th District from 1999 to 2001, in Cleveland, Ohio. From 2004 to 2005, she was a trial attorney with Roth Biermann, LLP, in Cleveland, Ohio. From 2000 to 2004, she was a senior trial attorney/assistant attorney general with the Ohio Attorney General's Office, in Columbus and Cleveland, Ohio. From 1995 to 1999, she was an active duty judge advocate with the U.S. Coast Guard in Miami. From 1994 to 1995, she served as an assistant public defender in Barstow, Florida. Judge Diaz-Rex is a member of the Florida Bar and Ohio State Bar.

Donald R. Eller Jr., Immigration Judge, Fort Worth Immigration Adjudication Center

Then-Acting Attorney General Matthew Whitaker appointed Don Eller to begin hearing cases in December 2018. Judge Eller earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in 1988 from the University of Texas at San Antonio and a Juris Doctor in 1995 from the University of Texas School of Law. He retired as a colonel from the U.S. Air Force in 2018. From 1996 to 2018, Judge Eller served as a judge advocate in the U.S. Air Force at the following locations: Barksdale AFB, Louisiana; Randolph AFB, Texas; RAF Molesworth, United Kingdom; Travis AFB, California; Pope AFB, North Carolina; Bolling AFB, Washington D.C.; and Ramstein AB, Germany. In those assignments, he performed various duties including trial judge, senior prosecutor, senior defense attorney, and staff judge advocate. From 1989 to 1993, Judge Eller served on active duty in the U.S. Air Force as a commissioned officer responsible for providing security for personnel and resources at Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota. Judge Eller is a member of the State Bar of Texas.

Melissa Joy Garcia, Immigration Judge, Harlingen Immigration Court

Then-Acting Attorney General Matthew Whitaker appointed Melissa Joy Garcia to begin hearing cases in March 2019. Judge Garcia earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1995 from the University of Texas at San Antonio and a Juris Doctor in 2001 from St. Mary's School of Law. In 2008, she was an assistant city attorney for the City of Laredo, Texas. From 2008 to 2018, she served for Webb County, Laredo, Texas in various roles as an assistant public defender, a justice of the peace for Precinct Two, Place Two, and an associate district judge. Judge Garcia is a member of the State Bar of Texas.

Paul A. Hable, Immigration Judge, Port Isabel Immigration Court

Then-Acting Attorney General Matthew Whitaker appointed Paul A. Hable to begin hearing cases in March, 2019. Judge Hable earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2000 from the University of Arizona, and a Juris Doctor in 2002 from St. Mary's School of Law. From 2015 to 2019, he served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Eastern District of Texas. From 2003 to 2015, he served as an assistant district attorney in the Criminal District Attorney Offices of Navarro County and Johnson County, Texas. Judge Hable is a member of the State Bar of Texas.

Monte J. Horton, Immigration Judge, Varick Street Immigration Court

Then-Acting Attorney General Matthew Whitaker appointed Monte J. Horton to begin hearing cases in March 2019. Judge Horton earned a Bachelor of Science in 1988 from The Ohio State University and a Juris Doctor in 1992 from Ohio Northern University Claude W. Pettit College of Law. From 1992 to 1993, he provided legal services to victims of domestic violence at Someplace Safe in Warren, Ohio. From 1993 to 1995, he worked as a public defender and private practice attorney in Trumbull County, Ohio. From 1996 to 2001, he worked as an assistant prosecuting attorney in Trumbull County serving as chief of the Juvenile and Fraud Divisions. From 2001 to 2019, he was a juvenile and domestic relations magistrate in Trumbull County. Judge Horton is a member of the Ohio State Bar.

Shane E. Johnson, Immigration Judge, Seattle Immigration Court

Then-Acting Attorney General Matthew Whitaker appointed Shane E. Johnson to begin hearing cases in March 2019. Judge Johnson earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1999 from the University of Hawaii at Manoa and a Juris Doctor in 2002 from the University of Idaho College of Law. From 1988 to 1994 he was a deep sea diver for the U.S. Navy, and from 2002 to 2018 he served as a judge advocate, also for the U.S. Navy. Judge Johnson is a member of the State Bar of North Dakota.

Anwer A. Khan, Immigration Judge, Houston Immigration Court

Then-Acting Attorney General Matthew Whitaker appointed Anwer A. Khan to begin hearing cases in March 2019. Judge Khan earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2003 from the University of California, Los Angeles, and a Juris Doctor in 2006 from the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University. From 2017 to 2019, he served as an assistant chief counsel with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), in Houston. From 2008 to 2017, he served as an assistant chief counsel with ICE, DHS, in Los

Angeles. From 2015 to 2017, he served as a special assistant U.S. attorney for the Central District of California. In 2008, he was an associate attorney with The A.D.I.L.A. Law Group in Los Angeles. From 2006 to 2007, he served as a judicial law clerk for the Executive Office for Immigration Review, DOJ, in Phoenix, entering through the Attorney General's Honors Program. Judge Khan is a member of the State Bar of California and the State Bar of Arizona.

Wynne P. Kelly, Immigration Judge, Arlington Immigration Court

Then-Acting Attorney General Matthew Whitaker appointed Wynne P. Kelly to begin hearing cases in March 2019. Judge Kelly earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2000 from Georgetown University and a Juris Doctor in 2005 from the Fordham University School of Law. From 2008 to 2019, he served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the District of Columbia. From 2007 to 2008, he was an associate attorney with Hunton & Williams LLP in Miami, Florida. From 2006 to 2007, he was a judicial clerk for the Honorable K. Michael Moore, U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Florida, in Miami, Florida. From 2005 to 2006, he was an associate attorney with Kelley Drye & Warren LLP in New York, New York. Judge Kelly is a member of the Florida, New Jersey and New York Bars.

Kelly B. Lake, Immigration Judge, San Francisco Immigration Court

Then-Acting Attorney General Matthew Whitaker appointed Kelly B. Lake to begin hearing cases in March 2019. Judge Lake earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1995 from the University of California, Los Angeles, and a Juris Doctor in 1998 from Loyola Law School of Los Angeles. From 1999 to 2007, she served as a deputy district attorney for the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. From 2007 to 2008 she was an associate legal advisor, Office of the Principal Legal Advisor, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, in Washington D.C. Judge Lake served in various capacities for the Department of Justice, including: from 2009 to 2010, as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Southern District of Illinois; from 2010 to 2014 as an assistant U.S. attorney in the District of the Virgin Islands; from 2014 to 2016, as a trial attorney in the Narcotic and Dangerous Drug Section, Criminal Division, in Washington D.C.; from 2016 to 2017, as the resident legal advisor, Overseas Prosecutorial Development and Training Section (OPDAT), Criminal Division, in Lagos, Nigeria; and from 2017 to 2018, as the resident legal advisor, OPDAT, Criminal Division, in Islamabad, Pakistan. Judge Lake is a member of the State Bar of California and District of Columbia Bar.

Anna C. Little, Immigration Judge, San Francisco Immigration Court

Then-Acting Attorney General Matthew Whitaker appointed Anna C. Little to begin hearing cases in March 2019. Judge Little earned a Business Certificate in 1988 from Sophia University Tokyo Japan, a Bachelor of Arts in 1989 from Seton Hall University, and a Juris Doctor in 1992 from Seton Hall University School of Law. From 1994 to 2018, she was a solo practitioner in Highlands, New Jersey. From 2008 to 2010, she served as mayor of Highlands. From 2006 to 2007, she served as freeholder, Monmouth County, New Jersey. Judge Little is a member of the New Jersey State Bar and the Pennsylvania Bar.

Lolita M. Lukose, Immigration Judge, Arlington Immigration Court

Then-Acting Attorney General Matthew Whitaker appointed Lolita M. Lukose to begin hearing cases in March of 2019. Judge Lukose earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1998 from New York University and a Juris Doctor in 2002 from the American University, Washington College of Law. From 2002 to 2005, she served as an assistant district attorney in the District Attorney's Office in Bronx, New York. From 2005 to 2007, she served as an assistant attorney general in the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia. From 2007 to 2010, she served as an attorney advisor in the National Security Law Section at the Office of the Principal Legal Advisor, Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and as an assistant chief counsel with Immigration and Customs Enforcement, DHS in the Arlington Chief Counsel's Office in Arlington, Virginia. From 2010 to 2019, she served as a trial attorney with the Counterterrorism Section of the National Security Division at the Department of Justice. Judge Lukose is a member of the District of Columbia and New York State Bar.

Elizabeth Martinez, Immigration Judge, Pearsall Immigration Court

Then-Acting Attorney General Matthew Whitaker appointed Elizabeth Martinez to begin hearing cases in March 2019. Judge Martinez earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1997 from Texas A&M International University and a Juris Doctor in 2000 from Texas Tech University School of Law. From 2007 to 2018, she was a solo practitioner with the Law Office of Elizabeth Martinez, PLLC in Laredo, Texas. From 2003 to 2007, she served as an assistant Webb County Public Defender in Laredo, Texas. From 2001 to 2003, she served as a juvenile prosecutor with the Office of the Webb County Attorney in Laredo, Texas. Judge Martinez is a member of the State Bar of Texas.

Jeffrey L. Menkin, Immigration Judge, Falls Church Immigration Adjudication Center

Then-Acting Attorney General Matthew Whitaker appointed Jeffrey L. Menkin to begin hearing cases in March 2019. Judge Menkin earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1981 from Brandeis University and a Juris Doctor in 1984 from Rutgers University School of Law, Camden. From 1985 to 1987, he served as a deputy attorney general for the New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice in Trenton, New Jersey. From 1987 to 1991, he was an associate for Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer in Woodbridge, New Jersey. From 1991 to 1996, he served as a trial attorney for the Fraud Section, Criminal Division, Department of Justice (DOJ), in Washington D.C. From 2006 to 2018, he served as a senior counsel for national security for the Office of Immigration Litigation, Civil Division, DOJ, in Washington D.C. Judge Menkin is a member of the District of Columbia Bar and the New Jersey State Bar.

Joy A. Merriman, Immigration Judge, Batavia Immigration Court

Then-Acting Attorney General Matthew Whitaker appointed Joy A. Merriman to begin hearing cases in March 2019. Judge Merriman earned a Bachelor of Science in 1981 from New York University, a Masters of Fine Arts in 1984 from Cornell University, and a Juris Doctor in 1992 from State University of New York at Buffalo. From 2016 to 2018 she served as senior attorney for the Office of Chief Counsel, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Department of

Homeland Security (DHS) in Buffalo, New York. From 2012 to 2015, she served as the Homeland Security Investigations Embed for ICE. From 2003 to 2012, she served as an assistant chief counsel for ICE. From 1996 to 2003, she was an assistant district counsel with the former Immigration and Naturalization Service, DOJ. From 1992 to 1996, she was a solo immigration practitioner in Buffalo. Judge Merriman is a member of the New York State Bar.

Walter L. “Bud” Paulissen, Immigration Judge, Pearsall Immigration Court

Then-Acting Attorney General Matthew Whitaker appointed Walter L. “Bud” Paulissen to begin hearing cases in March of 2019. Judge Paulissen earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in 1977 from the University of Texas at Austin and a Juris Doctor in 1980 from the University of Texas School of Law. From 2013 to 2019, he served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Western District of Texas. From 2000 to 2013, he was the chief of Major Crimes in that office. From 1990 to 2000, he served as an assistant U.S. attorney in San Antonio and Houston, Texas. From 1980 to 1990, he was in corporate and private law practice in Houston. Judge Paulissen is a member of the State Bar of Texas.

Christian M. Pressman, Immigration Judge, Imperial Immigration Court

Then-Acting Attorney General Matthew Whitaker appointed Christian M. Pressman to begin hearing cases in March 2019. Judge Pressman earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1993 from the University of Miami, a Juris Doctor in 1999, and Legum Magister in 2000, both from the University of Miami School of Law. From 2000 to 2002, he served as a judicial law clerk for the U.S. District Court, Southern District, Florida. From 2002 to 2003, he served as the assistant district counsel for the Department of Justice Attorney General’s Honors Program. From 2003 to 2018, he served as the assistant chief counsel for Office of the Principal Legal Advisor, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, in Miami, Florida. Judge Pressman is a member of the Florida Bar.

Francisco R. Prieto, Immigration Judge, Varick Street Immigration Court

Then-Acting Attorney General Matthew Whitaker appointed Francisco R. Prieto to begin hearing cases in March 2019. Judge Prieto earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in 1992 from Hofstra University and a Juris Doctor in 2000 from St. John’s University School of Law. From 2010 to 2019, he served as an assistant chief counsel with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), in New York, New York. From 2009 to 2010, he served as an assistant chief counsel ICE, in Miami, Florida. From 2007 to 2009, he served as an assistant attorney general at the New Mexico Attorney General’s Office, in Santa Fe, New Mexico. From 2006 to 2007, he served as an assistant district attorney with the First Judicial District Attorney’s Office, in Santa Fe. From 2004 to 2006, he was an examiner with AIG in New York, New York, and Jersey City, New Jersey. Judge Prieto is a member of the Florida Bar, State Bar of New Mexico and New York State Bar.

Jerome M. Rothschild Jr., Immigration Judge, Stewart Immigration Court

Then-Acting Attorney General Matthew Whitaker appointed Jerome M. Rothschild Jr. to begin hearing cases in March 2019. Judge Rothschild earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1992 from the

University of Georgia and a Juris Doctor in 1995 from the University of Georgia School of Law. From 1995 to 1997, he was an attorney with William O. Cox, P.C. From 1997 to 2018, he served as an assistant district attorney for the Chatham County Georgia District Attorney's Office. Judge Rothschild is a member of the State Bar of Georgia

Tamar H. Wilson, Immigration Judge, Newark Immigration Court

Then-Acting Attorney General Matthew Whitaker appointed Tamar H. Wilson to begin hearing cases in March 2019. Judge Wilson earned a Bachelor of Science in 1998 from the University of Southern Colorado and a Juris Doctor in 2002 from the University of Denver, College of Law. From 2017 to 2018, she served as a district court magistrate for the 18th Judicial District in Centennial, Colorado. From 2015 to 2017, she served as an assistant county attorney at the Arapahoe County Attorney's Office in Aurora, Colorado. From 2013 to 2015, she served as a deputy district attorney in the special victims unit and general felony prosecutions for the 18th Judicial District in Centennial, Colorado. From 2009 to 2012, she was a staff attorney at the Colorado District Attorneys' Council, in Denver, Colorado. From 2002 to 2009, she served as a deputy district attorney and a chief deputy district attorney for the 5th Judicial District in Breckenridge, Eagle, Georgetown and Leadville, Colorado. Judge Wilson is a member of the Colorado Bar.

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