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NOTICE

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EOIR Announces 24 New Immigration Judges

FALLS CHURCH, VA – The Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) today announced 24 new Immigration Judges, including four Assistant Chief Immigration Judges and two Unit Chief Immigration Judges. These 24 adjudicators join the newest member of the Board of Immigration Appeals, [Appellate Immigration Judge Andrea Saenz](#).

EOIR recognizes that a diverse and inclusive bench reflects the public we serve, and the agency encourages qualified candidates from all backgrounds to join our corps of dedicated adjudicators. Please watch for the next Immigration Judge Job Opportunity Announcement, which the agency expects to post in January 2022. For more information about the how to apply, please contact EOIR at PAO.EOIR@usdoj.gov to prepare to join the distinguished class named below.

After a thorough application process, Attorney General Merrick B. Garland appointed Assistant Chief Immigration Judges Jaime Diaz, Brandon C. Jaroch, Noelle Sharp, and Rebecca J. Walters; Unit Chief Immigration Judges Ellen L. Karesh and Steve Mannion; and Immigration Judges Lori K. Adams, Alisha C. Campos, Roel Canales, Daniel Caudillo, Jamee E. Comans, Louis A. Gordon, Terese Tadros Ibarra, Thanos Kanellakos, Steven M. Kirchner, Victoria A. Levin, Shira M. Levine, Paul N. Medved, Robert A. Ratliff, Kandra K. Robbins, Mark D. Sameit, Karen W. Schulz, Frank Seminerio, and Andrea M. Siebert to their new positions.

Biographical information follows:

Jaime Diaz, Assistant Chief Immigration Judge, Otero Immigration Court

Jaime Diaz was appointed as an Assistant Chief Immigration Judge to begin supervisory immigration court duties and hearing cases in October 2021. Judge Diaz earned a Bachelor of Science in 1989 from the University of Texas at El Paso, Master of Education in 1992 and 1999 from Sul Ross State University, and a Juris Doctor in 2003 from the University of Iowa College of Law. From 2016 to 2021, he served as a Deputy Chief Counsel, Office of the Principal Legal Advisor (OPLA), Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), in El Paso, Texas. From 2008 to 2016, he served as an Assistant Chief Counsel, OPLA, ICE, DHS, in El Paso. From 2006 to 2008, he served as an attorney, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, DHS, in El Paso. From 2003 to 2006, he was an Associate Attorney with Kemp Smith, and with Delgado, Acosta, Braden & Jones, in El Paso. Judge Diaz is a member of the State Bar of New Mexico and State Bar of Texas.

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Brandon C. Jaroch, Assistant Chief Immigration Judge, Buffalo Immigration Court

Brandon C. Jaroch was appointed as an Assistant Chief Immigration Judge to begin supervisory immigration court duties and hearing cases in October 2021. Judge Jaroch earned a Bachelor of Science in 1998 from Virginia Tech and a Juris Doctor in 2002 from Vermont Law School. From 2019 to 2021, he served as an Assistant Federal Public Defender for the District of Nevada. From 2015 to 2019, he served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Nevada. From 2009 to 2015, he served as Assistant Chief Counsel (ACC), Office of the Chief Counsel, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, in the Las Vegas and Dallas offices. While an ACC, he served as a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Nevada and the Northern District of Texas. From 2003 to 2009, he was a Judge Advocate General with the U.S. Air Force and served as a Senior Trial Counsel, Area Defense Counsel, and Trial Counsel at the following locations: Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada; Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska; and Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico. Judge Jaroch is a member of the New Jersey State Bar.

Noelle Sharp, Assistant Chief Immigration Judge, Houston – S. Gessner Road Immigration Court

Noelle Sharp was appointed as an Assistant Chief Immigration Judge to begin supervisory immigration court duties and hearing cases in October 2021. Judge Sharp earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1999 from San Francisco State University and a Juris Doctor in 2005 from Stetson University School of Law. From 2010 to 2021, she was an Immigration Attorney in private practice in California, Oregon, Texas, and Washington. From 2006 to 2007, she was Director at Catholic Charities Office of Refugee Resettlement Services in Tallahassee, Florida. From 2005 to 2006, she was a Law Clerk with Florida Rural Legal Services. Judge Sharp is a member of the Washington State Bar.

Rebecca J. Walters, Assistant Chief Immigration Judge, Arlington Immigration Court

Rebecca J. Walters was appointed as an Assistant Chief Immigration Judge to begin supervisory immigration court duties and hearing cases in October 2021. Judge Walters earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2005 from the University of Virginia and a Juris Doctor in 2010 from the American University Washington College of Law. From 2019 to 2021, she was a Managing Attorney; from 2014 to 2019, a Supervising Attorney; from 2012 to 2014, a Staff Attorney; and from 2010 to 2012, a Skadden Fellow, all at non-profit Ayuda, in Northern Virginia. From 2005 to 2007, she served as the Staff Assistant for the American Bar Association's Commission on Immigration, in the District of Columbia. Judge Walters is a member of the Virginia State Bar.

Ellen L. Karesh, Unit Chief Immigration Judge, Richmond Immigration Adjudication Center

Ellen L. Karesh was appointed as a Unit Chief Immigration Judge to begin supervisory immigration court duties and hearing cases in October 2021. Judge Karesh earned a Bachelor of Science in 1990 from the University of South Carolina and a Juris Doctor in 1993 from the University of South Carolina School of Law. From 1995 to 2021, she served as a Berkeley County Summary Court Judge, in South Carolina. From 1994 to 2004, she worked in private practice, in Goose Creek, South Carolina. Judge Karesh is a member of the South Carolina Bar.

Steve Mannion, Unit Chief Immigration Judge, Richmond Immigration Adjudication Center

Steve Mannion was appointed as a Unit Chief Immigration Judge to begin supervisory immigration court duties and hearing cases in October 2021. Judge Mannion earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1990 from Gettysburg College and Juris Doctor in 1993 from Seton Hall University School of Law. From 2004 to 2021, he served as an Officer in the U.S. Coast Guard assigned to law enforcement and security duties. He is also currently an Appellate Military Judge on the Coast Guard Court of Criminal Appeals and a Commander in the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve. Judge Mannion is a member of the New Jersey State Bar.

Lori K. Adams, Immigration Judge, New York – Federal Plaza Immigration Court

Lori K. Adams was appointed as an Immigration Judge to begin hearing cases in October 2021. Judge Adams earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2000 from the University of Oregon and a Juris Doctor in 2004 from New York Law School. From 2018 to 2020, she was Director of the Immigration Intervention Project at Sanctuary for Families, in New York, NY. From 2011 to 2018, she was Managing Attorney at Human Rights First, in New York, NY. From 2006 to 2011, she was Staff Attorney at Human Rights First, in New York, NY. From 2004 to 2006, she served as Judicial Law Clerk, then Attorney Advisor, at the Executive Office for Immigration Review, Department of Justice, entering on duty through the Attorney General's Honors Program and serving at the New York – Federal Plaza Immigration Court. Judge Adams is a member of the New Jersey State Bar and New York State Bar.

Alisha C. Campos, Immigration Judge, Memphis Immigration Court

Alisha C. Campos was appointed as an Immigration Judge to begin hearing cases in October 2021. Judge Campos earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1997 from Arkansas State University and a Juris Doctor in 2000 from University of Houston Law Center. From 2018 to 2021, she served as an Assistant Chief Counsel, Office of the Principal Legal Advisor, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, in Houston. From 2010 to 2018, she was Director of Operations at Lookout Services, in Stafford, Texas. From 2001 to 2010, she was an Immigration Attorney with Morley & Morley PC, in Bellaire, Texas. Judge Campos is a member of the State Bar of Texas.

Roel Canales, Immigration Judge, Laredo Immigration Court

Roel Canales was appointed as an Immigration Judge to begin hearing cases in October 2021. Judge Canales earned a Bachelor of Finance in 1997, a Masters in Business Administration in 2000 from Texas A&M International University, and a Juris Doctorate in 2006 from Thurgood Marshall School of Law. From 2017 to 2021, he was in private practice, in Laredo, Texas. From 2013 to 2017, he served as an Associate County Court at Law Judge in Laredo, Webb County, Texas. From 2010 to 2013, he served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Texas, in Laredo. From 2007 to 2010, he was in private practice, in Laredo. Judge Canales is a member of the State Bar of Texas.

Daniel Caudillo, Immigration Judge, Laredo Immigration Court

Daniel Caudillo was appointed as an Immigration Judge to begin hearing cases in October 2021. Judge Caudillo earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2003 from Texas Tech University and a Juris

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Doctorate in 2007 from Texas Tech University School of Law. From 2008 to 2021, he was in private practice in El Paso, Texas. From 2007 to 2008, he was an Associate Attorney with Maney & Gordon PA, in El Paso. Judge Caudillo is a member of the State Bar of Texas.

Jamee E. Comans, Immigration Judge, LaSalle Immigration Court

Jamee E. Comans was appointed as an Immigration Judge to begin hearing cases in October 2021. Judge Comans earned a Bachelor of Science in 2005 from St. Leo University and a Juris Doctorate in 2008 from Mississippi College School of Law. From 2018 to 2021, she served as Deputy Chief Counsel, Office of the Principal Legal Advisor (OPLA), Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), in Jena and Oakdale, Louisiana. From 2012 to 2018, she served as an Assistant Chief Counsel, OPLA, ICE, DHS, in Memphis. From 2009 to 2012, she was an Associate Attorney with the Law Offices of Matt Greenbaum LLP, in New Orleans. From 2001 to present, she has served in the U.S. Navy Reserve. Judge Comans is a member of the Mississippi Bar.

Louis A. Gordon, Immigration Judge, San Francisco Immigration Court

Louis A. Gordon was appointed as an Immigration Judge to begin hearing cases in October 2021. Judge Gordon earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1985 from Brandeis University, a Juris Doctor in 1989 from Benjamin Cardozo School of Law, and a Doctor of Philosophy in 2010 from the University of Southern California. From 1995 to 2021, he practiced immigration law with the Law Offices of Louis A. Gordon in Pasadena and Los Angeles, California. Judge Gordon is a member of the District of Columbia Bar, New Jersey State Bar and Pennsylvania Bar.

Terese Tadros-Ibarra, Immigration Judge, Santa Ana Immigration Court

Terese Tadros-Ibarra was appointed as an Immigration Judge to begin hearing cases in October 2021. Judge Tadros-Ibarra earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1999 from Montclair State University and a Juris Doctor in 2003 from Seton Hall University School of Law. In 2021, she served as a Supervisory Attorney Advisor, Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA), Executive Office for Immigration Review, U.S. Department of Justice, in Falls Church, Virginia. From 2015 to 2021, she served as an Attorney Advisor, BIA. From 2013 to 2015, she was a Senior Associate with Beach-Oswald Immigration Law Associates, in the District of Columbia. From 2011 to 2012, she was an Associate Attorney for The Law Offices of Irena Karpinski, in the District of Columbia. From 2009 to 2010, she was a Partner with Christian, Giro & Tadros LLP, in Jersey City, New Jersey. In 2008, she was a Commercial Litigation Associate with Harwood Lloyd LLC, in Hackensack, New Jersey. From 2004 to 2007, she was a Civil Litigation Associate with Kalbian Hagerty LLP, in the District of Columbia. From 2003 to 2004, she served as a Judicial Law Clerk for the Superior Court of New Jersey, Criminal Division, Essex County. Judge Tadros-Ibarra is a member of the District of Columbia Bar, Maryland State Bar, and New Jersey State Bar.

Thanos Kanellakos, Immigration Judge, Laredo Immigration Court

Thanos Kanellakos was appointed as an Immigration Judge to begin bearing cases in October 2021. Judge Kanellakos earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1985 from Loyola College of Maryland and a Juris Doctor in 1989 from the University of Baltimore School of Law. From 2004 to 2021, he was in solo practice in York, Pennsylvania, concentrating in immigration and nationality law. From 1990 to 2003, he was in solo practice in Baltimore, concentrating in immigration and nationality law and criminal defense. From 1992 to 2003, he was a Panel Attorney of the

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Criminal Justice Act Defense Panel of the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland. From 1990 to 1992, he served as an Assistant Part-Time Attorney for the Office of the Public Defender for Baltimore County, Maryland. Judge Kanellakos is a member of the Maryland State Bar.

Steven M. Kirchner, Immigration Judge, San Francisco Immigration Court

Steven M. Kirchner was appointed as an Immigration Judge to begin hearing cases in October 2021. Judge Kirchner earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1999 from Wheeling Jesuit University, a Juris Doctor in 2002 from Capital University Law School, and a Master of Arts in 2013 from The George Washington University. From 2020 to 2021, he served as a Senior Attorney Adjudicator, National Adjudication Team, Office of Hearings Operations (OHO), Social Security Administration (SSA), in Falls Church, Virginia. From 2019 to 2021, he also served as a Hearing Examiner, Ohio Board of Nursing, in Columbus, Ohio. From 2013 to 2020, he served as an Attorney Advisor to the Philadelphia Regional Chief Administrative Law Judge, OHO, SSA, in Philadelphia. From 2012 to 2013, he served as a Supervisory Attorney Advisor, OHO, SSA, in Pittsburgh. From 2010 to 2012, he served as an Attorney Advisor, OHO, SSA, in Cleveland. From 2006 to 2010, he served as a District Hearing Officer, Industrial Commission of Ohio, in Akron, Canton, and Cincinnati, Ohio. From 2004 to 2006, he served as a Hearing Administrator, Industrial Commission of Ohio, in Cincinnati. From 2002 to 2004, he was an Associate Attorney with Agee, Clymer, Mitchell, and Portman in Columbus, Ohio. Judge Kirchner is a member of the Ohio State Bar.

Victoria A. Levin, Immigration Judge, Santa Ana Immigration Court

Victoria Levin was appointed as an Immigration Judge to begin hearing cases in October 2021. Judge Levin earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1988 from Wellesley College, a Master of Arts in 1995 from Boston College, and Juris Doctor in 2004 from the University of Arizona College of Law. From 2009 to 2021, she served as Assistant Chief Counsel, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Office of the Principal Legal Advisor, in Florence, Arizona from 2009 to 2012, and Phoenix, Arizona from 2012 to 2021. From 2007 to 2009, she served as Prosecutor for the Gila River Indian Community, in Sacaton, Arizona. From 2005 to 2007, she served as Assistant Attorney General with the Child and Family Protection Unit at the Arizona Attorney General's Office, in Mesa, Arizona. From 1996 to 2005, she was Program Director and College Chair at the University of Phoenix in Arizona. From 1989 to 1993, she was a Project Manager at Houghton Mifflin Company, in Boston. Judge Levin is a member of the State Bar of Arizona.

Shira M. Levine, Immigration Judge, San Francisco Immigration Court

Shira M. Levine was appointed an Immigration Judge to begin hearing cases in October 2021. Judge Levine earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2005 from the University of Michigan and a Juris Doctorate in 2012 from Stanford Law School. From 2019 to 2021, she worked as Staff Attorney at Immigration Institute of the Bay Area, in Oakland, California. From 2015 to 2018, she worked as Staff Attorney at Centro Legal de la Raza, in Oakland. From 2013 to 2014, she was a Stanford Public Interest Law Fellow with Legal Aid at Work, in San Francisco. From 2012 to 2013, she clerked for the Honorable Harry Pregerson of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Judge Levine is a member of the State Bar of California.

Paul N. Medved, Immigration Judge, Laredo Immigration Court

Paul N. Medved was appointed as an Immigration Judge to begin hearing cases in October 2021. Judge Medved earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1987 from the University of Minnesota and a Juris

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Doctor in 1992 from Hofstra University School of Law. From 2000 to 2021, he was Managing Attorney with the Law Offices of Paul N. Medved, in Studio City, California. From 1997 to 2000, he was an Associate Attorney with Korenberg, Abramowitz & Feldun, in Encino, California. Judge Medved is a member of the District of Columbia Bar and State Bar of California.

Robert A. Ratliff, Immigration Judge, LaSalle Immigration Court

Robert A. Ratliff was appointed as an Immigration Judge in October 2021. Judge Ratliff earned a Bachelor of Arts in Public Administration in 1991 from the University of Pittsburgh and Juris Doctorate in 1997 from the University of Cincinnati College of Law. From 2013 to 2021, he served as the Law Director of the City of Bucyrus, Ohio. From 2018 to 2021, he served as the Village Solicitor for Caledonia, Crestline, Edison, and Nevada, Ohio. From 1997 to 2013, he was in private practice in Cincinnati and Mobile, Alabama, practicing in the areas of criminal and immigration law. Judge Ratliff is a member of the Alabama State Bar and Ohio State Bar.

Kandra K. Robbins, Immigration Judge, LaSalle Immigration Court

Kandra K. Robbins was appointed as an Immigration Judge to begin hearing cases in October 2021. Judge Robbins earned a Bachelor of Science in 1990 from Central Michigan University and a Juris Doctor in 1993 from Northern Illinois University College of Law. From 1993 to 2000, she served as Staff Attorney/Prosecutor for the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, in Michigan. From 2000 to 2006, she served as the Chief Judge for the Sault Ste. Marie Tribal Court, in Michigan. From 2006 to 2021, she served as an Administrative Law Judge, Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules, Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, State of Michigan, in Lansing. Judge Robbins is a member of the State Bar of Michigan.

Mark D. Sameit, Immigration Judge, Otay Mesa Immigration Court

Mark D. Sameit was appointed as an Immigration Judge to begin hearing cases in October 2021. Judge Sameit earned a Bachelor of Science in 2000 from the University of Virginia, a Juris Doctor in 2008 from William and Mary Law School, and a Master of Laws in 2012 from the Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School. From 2008 to 2021, he served as a Judge Advocate in the U.S. Marine Corps in the following locations: Okinawa, Japan; Camp Pendleton, California; Quantico, Virginia; and Arlington, Virginia. While serving as a Marine Judge Advocate, he served in various positions including Staff Judge Advocate, Military Judge, Supervisory Trial Counsel, Defense Counsel, and Director of the Marine Corps' Trial Counsel Assistance Program. From 2000 to 2005, he served as an Aviation Supply Officer in the U.S. Marine Corps at Marine Corps Air Station in Miramar, California, and Okinawa, Japan. Judge Sameit is a member of the District of Columbia Bar.

Karen W. Schulz, Immigration Judge, San Francisco Immigration Court

Karen W. Schulz was appointed as an Immigration Judge to begin hearing cases in October 2021. Judge Schulz earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2006 from University of California, Los Angeles, and a Juris Doctor in 2010 from Santa Clara University School of Law. From 2010 to 2021, she worked as a Private Practitioner, Managing Attorney, and Executive Director for Step Forward Foundation, in Morgan Hill, California. Judge Schulz is a member of the State Bar of California.

Frank Seminerio, Immigration Judge, San Francisco Immigration Court

Frank Seminerio was appointed as an Immigration Judge to begin hearing cases in October 2021. Judge Seminerio earned a Bachelor of Science in 2005 from Heidelberg University and a Juris Doctor in 2008 from the Pennsylvania State University Dickinson School of Law. From 2017 to 2021, he served as a Supervising Administrative Law Judge with the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance in Albany, New York. From 2012 to 2017, he served as an Administrative Law Judge with the New York State Department of Labor in Troy, New York. From 2008 to 2012, he served as an Assistant District Attorney with the Jefferson County District Attorney’s Office in Watertown, New York. Judge Seminerio is a member of the New York State Bar.

Andrea M. Siebert, Immigration Judge, Santa Ana Immigration Court

Andrea M. Siebert was appointed as an Immigration Judge to begin hearing cases in October 2021. Judge Siebert earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1996 from Macalester College and a Juris Doctor in 2008 from CUNY School of Law. From 2012 to 2021, she served as an Assistant Chief Counsel, Office of the Principal Legal Advisor (OPLA), Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), in Los Angeles. From 2010 to 2012, she served as an Assistant Chief Counsel, OPLA, ICE, DHS, in San Antonio. From 2009 to 2010, she served as an Attorney Advisor at the Imperial Immigration Court, Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR), Department of Justice (DOJ). From 2008 to 2009, she served as a Judicial Law Clerk at the Miami Krome Immigration Court, EOIR, DOJ. Judge Siebert is a member of the New York State Bar.

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The Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) 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.