



**U.S. Department of Justice**  
Executive Office for Immigration Review  
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# NOTICE

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## **EOIR Announces 11 New Immigration Judges**

FALLS CHURCH, VA – The Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) today announced the appointment of 11 immigration judges to immigration courts in Georgia, Illinois, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Washington.

These immigration judges are career employees, and EOIR selected them after a thorough competitive application process. Attorney General Merrick B. Garland officially appointed Maria I. Akalski, Richard J. Bailey, Antonio Capistrano, Danielle H. Garten, Michael A. Lewis, Gioia M. Maiellano, Winfield W. Murray, Adam G. Panopoulos, Eric W. Schultz, Michael J. Tisocco, and Lori S. Yokoyama to their new positions.

EOIR continues to work to expand its immigration judge corps and welcomes qualified candidates from all backgrounds to join the agency. In addition to making a difference through service to our Nation, immigration judges join a diverse and inclusive workforce. Individuals interested in these critical positions are invited to [sign up for job alerts](#) that are sent when new opportunities become available.

Biographical information for the newly-appointed immigration judges follows:

### **Maria I. Akalski, Immigration Judge, Philadelphia Immigration Court**

Maria I. Akalski was appointed as an Immigration Judge to begin hearing cases in December 2022. Judge Akalski earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1999 from Harvard University and a Juris Doctor in 2002 from New York University School of Law. From 2018 to 2022, she served as an assistant chief counsel, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security (DHS), in New York. From 2015 to 2018, she was an attorney in New York, working for Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen and Loewy from 2017 to 2018, and as an associate counsel for immigration at WME-IMG from 2015 to 2016. From 2007 to 2015, she served in several roles with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, DHS: immigration services officer (2007-2008); supervisory immigration services officer (2008-2011); section chief (2012-2014); and deputy field office director (2014-2015) in New York; and as a section chief (2011-2012) in Newark, New Jersey. From 2005 to 2007, she was an immigration attorney at Stephen Jeffries & Associates in New York. From 2002 to 2004, she was an associate at Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft in New York. Judge Akalski is a member of the New York State Bar.

## **EOIR Announces 11 New Immigration Judges**

### **Page 2**

#### **Richard J. Bailey, Immigration Judge, Elizabeth Immigration Court**

Richard J. Bailey was appointed as an Immigration Judge to begin hearing cases in December 2022. Judge Bailey earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2005 from Fordham University and a Juris Doctor in 2012 from the City University of New York School of Law. From 2014 to 2022, he was a staff attorney and then a supervising attorney at Brooklyn Defender Services in New York where he represented individuals before EOIR; U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security; and the U.S. District Courts. From 2012 to 2014, he served as a staff attorney at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. Judge Bailey is a member of the New Jersey State Bar and the New York State Bar.

#### **Antonio Capistrano, Immigration Judge, Philadelphia Immigration Court**

Antonio Capistrano was appointed as an Immigration Judge to begin hearing cases in December 2022. Judge Capistrano earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2005 from Rutgers University and a Juris Doctor in 2008 from the Temple University Beasley School of Law. From 2020 to 2022, he was the Managing Partner at MC Law Group, LLC, where he focused on immigration law and criminal defense. From 2010 to 2020, he was the senior associate at The Law Offices of Tahir Mella, P.C., where he represented individuals before EOIR and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security. Judge Capistrano is a member of the Pennsylvania Bar.

#### **Danielle H. Garten, Immigration Judge, Otero Immigration Court**

Danielle H. Garten was appointed as an Immigration Judge to begin hearing cases in December 2022. Judge Garten earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2002 from Quinnipiac University and a Juris Doctor in 2005 from Touro College-Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center. From 2016 to 2022, she served as an assistant chief counsel, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, in El Paso, Texas. During that time, she served as a special assistant U.S. attorney at the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Texas-El Paso Division. From 2011 to 2016, she was an associate attorney at Marks, O'Neill, O'Brien, Doherty & Kelly, P.C. in New York. From 2009 to 2011, she served as an information, review, and release analyst at the Central Intelligence Agency in Langley, Virginia. From 2008 to 2009, she was an associate attorney at Traub Lieberman Straus & Shrewsbury, LLP in New York. From 2006 to 2008, she was an associate attorney at Subin Associates LLP in New York. Judge Garten is a member of the State of Connecticut Bar and New York State Bar.

#### **Michael A. Lewis, Immigration Judge, Annandale Immigration Court**

Michael A. Lewis was appointed as an Immigration Judge to begin hearing cases in December 2022. Judge Lewis earned a Bachelor of Science in 1992 from Bentley College and a Juris Doctor in 1995 from Boston College Law School. From 1995 to 2022, he served as an attorney, trial judge, and appellate judge with the U.S. Air Force in several locations, including: Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas; Fairchild Air Force Base, Washington; U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado; Charleston Air Force Base, South Carolina; Ramstein Air Base, Germany; Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico; Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona; and Joint Base Andrews, Maryland. In 2022, he retired as a colonel from the U.S. Air Force, having last served as an appellate judge on the U.S. Air Force Court of Criminal Appeals. Judge Lewis is a member of the Massachusetts Bar.

**Gioia M. Maiellano, Immigration Judge, New York – Federal Plaza Immigration Court**

Gioia M. Maiellano was appointed as an Immigration Judge to begin hearing cases in December 2022. Judge Maiellano earned a Bachelor of Science in 1994 from Fordham University and a Juris Doctor in 1998 from Brooklyn Law School. From 2021 to 2022, she was a solo practitioner handling immigration cases. From 2017 to 2021, she served as an Administrative Law Judge with the Department of Finance, City of New York. From 2015 to 2016, she served as an asylum officer with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), Department of Homeland Security (DHS). In 2015, prior to joining USCIS, she served as pro bono counsel for the Iraqi Refugee Assistance Project. From 2013 to 2015, she worked in private practice with the Law Office of Carmen DiAmore-Siah in Honolulu representing individuals before the immigration courts, the Board of Immigration Appeals, and USCIS. From 2003 to 2013, she served as an assistant chief counsel, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, DHS, in New York. In 2002, she worked with the Law Office of Amir Alishahi in New York. From 2000 to 2001, she served as a staff attorney with the European Roma Rights Center, in Budapest, Hungary. Prior to that, she served as a law clerk with the Office of the Prosecutor at the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in The Hague, The Netherlands. Judge Maiellano is a member of the New York State Bar.

**Winfield W. Murray, Immigration Judge, Atlanta – Peachtree Immigration Court**

Winfield W. Murray was appointed as an Immigration Judge to begin hearing cases in December 2022. Judge Murray earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1998 from Morehouse College, a Juris Doctor in 2001 from Howard University School of Law, and a Master of Laws in 2002 in Litigation and Alternative Dispute Resolution from the George Washington University School of Law. In 2022, he served as trial counsel for the Office of the General Counsel, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), in Atlanta. From 2019 to 2021, he served as trial counsel for the Office of the Solicitor, U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), in Atlanta. From 2018 to 2019, he served as the deputy chief of staff, Office of the Chief of Staff, Office of the Mayor, City of Atlanta. From 2015 to 2018, he served as trial counsel for the Office of the General Counsel, HUD, in Atlanta. From 2013 to 2015, he served as an assistant city attorney for the City of Atlanta Law Department. From 2010 to 2013, he served as trial counsel for the Office of the Solicitor, DOL, in Atlanta. From 2003 to 2010, he served as a prosecutor with the Atlanta City Solicitor's Office. From 2002 to 2003, he served as a judicial clerk for the Chief Judge of the U.S. Virgin Islands. Judge Murray is a member of the State Bar of Georgia.

**Adam G. Panopoulos, Immigration Judge, Elizabeth Immigration Court**

Adam G. Panopoulos was appointed as an Immigration Judge to begin hearing cases in December 2022. Judge Panopoulos earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2006 from the University of Pennsylvania and a Juris Doctor in 2010 from the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law. From 2014 to 2022, he served as an assistant chief counsel, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, in New York City. From 2012 to 2014, he served as an assistant chief counsel, Harlingen suboffice, San Antonio, in Harlingen, Texas. From 2010 to 2012, he served as a judicial law clerk, and later as an attorney advisor, at the Atlanta Immigration Court entering on duty through the Attorney General's Honors Program. Judge Panopoulos is a member of the New York State Bar.

**Eric W. Schultz, Immigration Judge, Batavia Immigration Court**

Eric W. Schultz was appointed as an Immigration Judge to begin hearing cases in December 2022. Judge Schultz earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1990 from Canisius College and a Juris Doctor in 1995 from the State University of New York at Buffalo. From 2016 to 2022, he served as an assistant chief counsel, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, in Buffalo. From 2007 to 2016, he practiced immigration law and removal defense litigation at Barclay Damon LLP in Buffalo. From 1996 to 2007, he was partner at Sacks, Kolken, & Schultz in Buffalo. Judge Schultz is a member of the New York State Bar.

**Michael J. Tisocco, Immigration Judge, Seattle Immigration Court**

Michael J. Tisocco was appointed as an Immigration Judge to begin hearing cases in December 2022. Judge Tisocco earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2004 from the University of Washington and a Juris Doctor in 2008 from Suffolk University Law School. From 2015 to 2022, he was in private practice at Tisocco Immigration PLLC in Seattle representing individuals before EOIR; the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals; U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security; and the Department of State. From 2012 to 2015, he was partner at Stratton & Tisocco PLLC in Seattle. From 2010 to 2012, he was an associate attorney at Jakeman Shaklee Oliver, PS in Seattle. From 2009 to 2010, he was in private practice at the Law Office of Michael J. Tisocco in Seattle. Judge Tisocco is a member of the Washington State Bar.

**Lori S. Yokoyama, Immigration Judge, Chicago Immigration Court**

Lori S. Yokoyama was appointed as an Immigration Judge to begin hearing cases in December 2022. Judge Yokoyama earned a Bachelor of Science in 1977 from Northeastern Illinois University, a Juris Doctor in 1980 from DePaul University, College of Law, a Master of Business Management in 1994 from J.L. Kellogg Graduate School of Management, Northwestern University. From 2000 to 2022, she was the founding and managing partner at Yokoyama & Associates, P.C. where she represented individuals in immigration cases. From 2012 to 2019, she was co-managing partner at Sanchez, Daniels, Yokoyama, Hastie, and Greene, and from 1988 to 2000, she was a partner at Sanchez and Daniels. From 1981 to 1988, she was an associate at Hinshaw, Culbertson, Moelmann, Hoban & Fuller. Judge Yokoyama is a member of the Illinois State Bar and the State Bar of Texas.

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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.*