



U.S. Department of Justice
Executive Office for Immigration Review
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NEWS RELEASE

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Immigration Judge Takes Oath of Office In Houston

HOUSTON – Chris A. Brisack was sworn in today as an immigration judge during an investiture ceremony at 1:30 p.m. at the University of Houston Law Center. Chief Immigration Judge Michael J. Creppy, from the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) in Falls Church, Va., administered the oath of office.

Judge Brisack joins the ranks of more than 200 immigration judges located in 53 immigration courts throughout the nation. Immigration judges are responsible for conducting formal administrative proceedings to determine whether foreign-born individuals who are charged with violations of federal immigration law should be removed from the United States or may be granted relief from removal. Immigration judges decide each case independently and their decisions are final unless appealed or certified to the Board of Immigration Appeals. In the past year, immigration judges completed more than 300,000 matters. They also are authorized to administer oaths of citizenship to candidates for naturalization.

Chris A. Brisack was appointed as an immigration judge in May 2005. He received an undergraduate degree in 1981 from the University of Nebraska, and a juris doctorate in 1985 from the University of Houston Law Center. From January to May, 2005, Judge Brisack worked as an attorney in the law firm of Rodriguez, Colvin, Chaney & Saenz, LL.P. in McAllen, Texas. From December 1991 to December 2004, he served as a partner and attorney in the law firm of Norquest & Brisack, LL.P. in McAllen. From 1989 to December 1991, Judge Brisack worked as an attorney in the law firm of Jarvis, Schwarz & Kittleman in McAllen. He also served as a law clerk and attorney at the U.S. District Court, Southern District of Texas, in McAllen from 1988 to 1989. Judge Brisack is a member of the State Bar of Texas.

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EOIR is responsible for adjudicating immigration cases. Specifically, under delegated authority from the Attorney General, EOIR interprets and administers the federal immigration laws by conducting immigration court proceedings, appellate reviews, and administrative hearings. EOIR consists of three components: the Office of the Chief Immigration Judge, which is responsible for managing the numerous immigration courts located throughout the United States where immigration judges adjudicate individual cases; the Board of Immigration Appeals, which primarily conducts appellate reviews of immigration judge decisions; and the Office of the Chief Administrative Hearing Officer, which adjudicates immigration-related employment cases. EOIR is committed to providing the fair, expeditious, and uniform application of the nation's immigration laws in all cases.

Information about EOIR immigration proceedings is available on EOIR's website at <http://www.usdoj.gov/eoir/press/subject.htm>.

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