



U.S. Department of Justice
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NEWS RELEASE

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Immigration Judge Takes Oath of Office In Arlington

ARLINGTON, Va. – Thomas Snow was sworn in today as an immigration judge during an investiture ceremony at 2:45 p.m. at the U.S. Army Court of Criminal Appeals. Chief Immigration Judge Michael J. Creppy, from the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) in Falls Church, Va., administered the oath of office.

Judge Snow 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.

Thomas Snow was appointed as an immigration judge in October 2005. He received a bachelor of arts degree in 1977 from the College of William and Mary, a master of arts degree in 1980, and a juris doctorate in 1982, both from the University of Virginia. From 1991 to October 2005, Judge Snow served as principal deputy director for the Office of International Affairs, Criminal Division, Department of Justice (DOJ). He also worked as an adjunct professor of law at the University of Virginia Law School from 1995 to 2005 where he taught international criminal law. In 1989, Judge Snow served as an attorney advisor in the Office of the Legal Adviser, U.S. Department of State. He was a trial attorney from 1984 to 1989 in the Office of International Affairs, Criminal Division, DOJ. Judge Snow served as a trial attorney in the voting section of the Civil Rights Division, DOJ, from 1982 to 1984. He is a member of the District of Columbia and Virginia bars.

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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>.