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NEWS RELEASE

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Baltimore Immigration Judge Participates in Naturalization Ceremony

BALTIMORE -- Immigration Judge Elizabeth A. Kessler from the Executive Office for Immigration Review, Baltimore Immigration Court, delivered the keynote speech and administered the oath of allegiance to approximately 75 candidates during a naturalization ceremony at the George H. Fallon Federal Building in Baltimore, Md., on Sept. 3, 2010. The Baltimore District Office of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, hosted the ceremony.

Biographical Information

Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales appointed Judge Kessler in January 2006. Judge Kessler received a bachelor of arts degree in 1987 from Columbia University, a master of arts degree in international relations in 1992 from Yale Graduate School, and a juris doctorate in 1992 from Yale Law School. From 2003 to 2006, Judge Kessler served as a deputy associate attorney general at the Department of Justice (DOJ). She previously served as a deputy general counsel for the U.S. Department of Energy. From 1997 to 1999, Judge Kessler served as General Counsel with the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee, Subcommittee on Immigration, in Washington, D.C. From 1995 to 1997 she served as Counsel on the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee. From 1993 to 1994, she was an attorney with the Civil Division, Appellate Staff, at DOJ and a Bristow Fellow with the Office of the Solicitor General. From 1992 to 1993, Judge Kessler served as a law clerk with Judge Richard J. Cardamone, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. She is a member of both the State of Maryland and District of Columbia bars.

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The Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) is an agency within the Department of Justice. Under delegated authority from the Attorney General, immigration judges and the Board of Immigration Appeals interpret and adjudicate immigration cases according to United States immigration laws. EOIR's immigration judges conduct administrative court proceedings in immigration courts located throughout the nation. They determine whether foreign-born individuals — whom the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) charges with violating immigration law — should be ordered removed from the United States or should be granted relief from removal and be permitted to remain in this country. The Board of Immigration Appeals primarily reviews appeals of decisions by immigration judges. EOIR's Office of the Chief Administrative Hearing Officer adjudicates immigration-related employment cases. EOIR is committed to ensuring fairness in all of the cases it adjudicates.