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NEWS RELEASE

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Baltimore Immigration Judge Participates in Naturalization Ceremony

BALTIMORE -- Immigration Judge John F. Gossart, Jr. 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. 17, 2010. The Baltimore District Office of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, hosted the ceremony.

Biographical Information

Attorney General William French Smith appointed Judge Gossart in October 1982. Judge Gossart received a bachelor of science degree in 1967 from the University of Maryland and a juris doctorate in 1974 from the University of Baltimore School of Law. From 1975 through 1982, Judge Gossart served in various positions at the former Immigration and Naturalization Service, including general attorney, trial attorney, and Deputy Assistant Commissioner for Naturalization. Since 1997, he has served as an adjunct professor of immigration law at the University of Baltimore School of Law, has been a faculty member at the National Judicial College, and has guest lectured at numerous law schools and for the Maryland Institute for Continuing Professional Education of Lawyers. Judge Gossart served in the United States Army from 1967 to 1969. He is a member of 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.