



U.S. Department of Justice
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NEWS RELEASE

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The Executive Office for Immigration Review Swears in 23 New Immigration Judges Judge Corps Reaches 262 Serving in 59 Immigration Courts

FALLS CHURCH, Va. – Acting Deputy Attorney General Gary Grindler invested 23 new immigration judges during a ceremony held at the Executive Office for Immigration Review's (EOIR) headquarters on Nov. 5, 2010.

Attorney General Eric Holder appointed Silvia R. Arellano, Jerry A. Beatmann Sr., Jesse B. Christensen, Steven J. Connelly, Philip J. Costa, V. Stuart Couch, Thomas G. Crossan Jr., Leo A. Finston, Saul Greenstein, Amy C. Hoogasian, Stuart F. Karden, F. James Loprest Jr., Lisa Luis, Joren Lyons, H. Kevin Mart, Sheila McNulty, Maureen S. O'Sullivan, Daniel J. Santander, Alice Segal, Andrea H. Sloan, Dan Trimble, Eileen R. Trujillo, Clarence M. Wagner Jr., and Virna A. Wright to these important public service positions. Andrea H. Sloan entered on duty on Oct. 24, 2010, but was unable to attend Friday's ceremony.

"We have made great progress since we began our robust immigration judge hiring initiative earlier this year," said Chief Immigration Judge Brian M. O'Leary. "These new immigration judges bring the judge corps of our 59 immigration courts to 262, and we expect to further enhance the corps by additional immigration judges before the end of the calendar year."

The hiring process for most of these new immigration judges began in December 2009. After initial screening, EOIR's human resources section referred 1,782 applications to the Office of the Chief Immigration Judge. Four panels of assistant chief immigration judges screened the applications for the following criteria: ability to demonstrate the appropriate temperament to serve as a judge; knowledge of immigration laws and procedures; substantial litigation experience, preferably in a high-volume context; experience handling complex legal issues; experience conducting administrative hearings; and knowledge of judicial practices and procedures. The most highly recommended candidates were selected for interviews. Top

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candidates were then referred for a second review and interview by a panel of senior Department of Justice officials. The Attorney General made the final selections.

The new immigration judges will preside in the immigration courts in Florence, Ariz.; Los Angeles and San Francisco, Calif.; Denver, Colo.; Miami and Orlando, Fla.; Lumpkin, Ga.; Honolulu, Hawaii; Chicago, Ill.; Oakdale, La.; Charlotte, N.C.; Newark, N.J.; Batavia and New York, N.Y.; Portland, Ore.; and Houston and Pearsall, Texas. To view their biographies, please visit <http://www.justice.gov/eoir/press/2010/IJInvestitureBiographies11052010.pdf>.

— EOIR —

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 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.