



U.S. Department of Justice
Executive Office for Immigration Review
Office of the Director
5107 Leesburg Pike, Suite 2600
Falls Church, Virginia 22041

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Office of Legislative and Public Affairs
(703) 305-0289 Fax: (703) 605-0365
Internet: www.justice.gov/eoir/

April 1, 2011

The Executive Office for Immigration Review Swears in Two Assistant Chief Immigration Judges, One Immigration Judge

FALLS CHURCH, Va. – The Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) today announced the investiture of three immigration judges, two of whom will serve as assistant chief immigration judges (ACIJ) and one of whom will join the immigration judge corps in Boston, Mass. Chief Immigration Judge Brian M. O’Leary presided over the investiture during a ceremony held at EOIR’s headquarters on March 25, 2011.

After a thorough application process, Attorney General Eric Holder appointed Steven F. Day, Edward F. Kelly and Deepali Nadkarni to their new positions. Each brings with them a unique perspective based on varied educational and professional experiences.

“We are pleased to welcome these three individuals into our already strong immigration judge corps,” said O’Leary. “The Department of Justice has made immigration judge hiring a priority. The addition of two ACIJs, and a new immigration judge in Boston, will allow us to better address our caseload and improve oversight of the immigration court system.”

Biographical information follows.

Steven F. Day, Immigration Judge, Boston Immigration Court

Attorney General Holder appointed Judge Day in March 2011. Judge Day received a bachelor of arts degree in 1975 from Gustavus Adolphus College and a juris doctorate in 1978 from the University of Denver College of Law. He also received a master of arts degree from the Naval War College in Newport, R.I. From August 2008 to March 2011, he served as a trial attorney for the Office of Immigration Litigation, Civil Division, Department of Justice. From 1992 to 2008, Judge Day served in the Department of the Navy in various roles, including chief judge of the Navy-Marine Corps Trial Judiciary in Washington, D.C., and director of the Joint Law Center, Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point, N.C. From 1990 to 1992, he was a staff attorney, Naval War College, Newport, R.I. Between 1979 and 1990, Judge Day held a number of positions, including the following: officer policy officer, Headquarters Marine Corps in Washington, D.C.; a trial counsel in California; a trial counsel and assistant judge advocate in Okinawa, Japan; and an assistant staff judge advocate in New Orleans, La. Judge Day is a member of the Massachusetts Bar.

— more —

Edward F. Kelly, Assistant Chief Immigration Judge

Attorney General Holder appointed Edward F. Kelly in March 2011. He received a bachelor of arts degree in 1982 and a juris doctorate in 1987, both from the University of Notre Dame. From November 2009 to March 2011, Judge Kelly served as senior counsel and chief of staff for the Office of the Chief Immigration Judge (OCIJ), Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR). From 2007 to 2009, he was counsel for operations for OCIJ at EOIR. From 1998 to 2007, Judge Kelly was a senior legal advisor for the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA), EOIR. From 1995 to 1998, he served as a supervisory attorney and team leader for the BIA. From 1989 to 1993 and again from 1994 to 1995, Judge Kelly was an attorney advisor for the BIA. From 1987 to 1989, he served as an assistant counsel, Subcommittee on Immigration, Refugees, and International Law, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. From 1982 to 1984, he served in the U.S. Peace Corps in Gabon, Africa. Judge Kelly is a member of the Virginia State Bar.

Deepali Nadkarni, Assistant Chief Immigration Judge

Attorney General Holder appointed Deepali Nadkarni in March 2011. She received a bachelor of arts degree in 1991 from Mercer University in Macon, Ga., and a juris doctorate in 1994 from Emory University School of Law. From October 1995 to March 2011, Judge Nadkarni served at the Board of Immigration Appeals, Executive Office for Immigration Review, in various capacities, including attorney advisor, supervisory attorney-examiner, and senior panel attorney. From 1994 to 1995, she worked as a judicial law clerk entering on duty through the Attorney General's Honors Program. Judge Nadkarni is a member of the State Bar of Georgia.

— 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 (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.