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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **The Executive Office for Immigration Review Swears in New Assistant Chief Immigration Judge**

FALLS CHURCH, Va. – The Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) today announced the investiture of a new assistant chief immigration judge. Chief Immigration Judge Brian M. O’Leary presided over the investiture during a ceremony held at EOIR’s headquarters on March 30, 2012.

After a thorough application process, Attorney General Eric Holder appointed Christopher A. Santoro to his new position. “We are pleased to welcome Assistant Chief Immigration Judge Santoro to our immigration judge corps in this managerial role,” said O’Leary. “His judicial and immigration experience will further enhance our ongoing efforts to improve the immigration court system.”

Biographical information follows.

#### **Christopher A. Santoro, Assistant Chief Immigration Judge**

Christopher A. Santoro was appointed as an ACIJ in March 2012. He received a bachelor of arts degree in 1991 from Tufts University and a juris doctorate in 1994 from the Boston University School of Law. In 2011, Judge Santoro served as an Air Force Reserve trial judge, and, in 2012, he was appointed to be the Air Force Reserve’s deputy chief trial judge, a position he still holds. From 2009 to 2011, he served as special advisor, Enforcement and Removal Operations, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security (DHS). From 2005 to 2009, Judge Santoro served in leadership roles including counsel, deputy director, and senior advisor within the Office of Inspection, Transportation Security Administration, DHS. Also during this time, Judge Santoro served as a military trial judge. From 2001 to 2005, Judge Santoro was a trial attorney in the Criminal Section, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice. He entered active duty with the U.S. Air Force in 1995 and served as a senior regional prosecutor and appellate attorney until 2001. From 1988 to 1995, Judge Santoro was a patrol officer with the Wolfeboro, New Hampshire Police Department. Judge Santoro is a member of the New Hampshire, Colorado, and District of Columbia bars.

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## **EOIR Swears in New Assistant Chief Immigration Judge**

### **Page 2**

*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 (BIA) 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 BIA 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.*