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NEWS RELEASE

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Baltimore Immigration Judges Participate in Naturalization Ceremonies

BALTIMORE -- Immigration Judges Lisa Dornell, John F. Gossart, Jr., and Phillip T. Williams from the Executive Office for Immigration Review, Baltimore Immigration Court, delivered the keynote speech and administered the oath of allegiance to approximately 300 candidates during four naturalization ceremonies in October and November 2010. The Baltimore District Office of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, hosted the naturalization ceremonies at the George H. Fallon Federal Building in Baltimore, Md.

Biographical Information

Attorney General Janet Reno appointed Judge Dornell in April 1995. Judge Dornell received a bachelor of arts degree in 1983 from the University of Vermont and a juris doctorate in 1986 from the University of Texas at Austin School of Law. From 1990 to 1995, Judge Dornell served as senior litigation counsel at the Office of Immigration Litigation, Civil Division, Department of Justice. From 1986 to 1990, she served as a trial attorney in the New York district office of the former Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and then as an assistant general counsel at INS Headquarters in Washington, D.C. Judge Dornell lectures on immigration topics and court procedure at several local law schools. She is a member of the District of Columbia and State of Texas Bars.

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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Attorney General Janet Reno appointed Judge Williams in March 1995. Judge Williams received a bachelor of arts degree in 1978 from Temple University, a master of arts degree in 1981 from Howard University, and a juris doctorate in 1986 from Howard University School of Law. From 1997 to 2008 Judge Williams was an assistant chief immigration judge. From 1995 to 1997, he served as an immigration judge in New York. From 1987 to 1995, Judge Williams was an attorney with Maggio & Kattar in Washington, D.C. From 1984 to 1986, he worked as a District of Columbia pre-trial services officer. Judge Williams is a member of the District of Columbia and State of Pennsylvania 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 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.