



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 Communications and Legislative Affairs
Phone: 703-305-0289 Fax: 703-605-0365
PAO.EOIR@usdoj.gov @DOJ_EOIR
www.justice.gov/eoir

Feb. 1, 2016

Executive Office for Immigration Review Swears in Nine Immigration Judges

FALLS CHURCH, VA – The Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) today announced the investiture of nine immigration judges. Acting Chief Immigration Judge Print Maggard presided over the investiture during a ceremony held Jan. 29, 2016, at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces in Washington D.C.

After a thorough application process, Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch appointed Xiomara Davis-Gumbs, Jennifer M. Gorland, Denise C. Hochul, Mark J. Jebson, Margaret M. Kolbe, Ramin Rastegar, Shifra Rubin, Meredith B. Tyrakoski, and Daniel H. Weiss to their new positions.

“Our agency continues to work hard to hire highly qualified immigration judges who will help to decrease our pending caseload,” said Maggard. “With these nine new immigration judges, our immigration judge corps now totals 254, and we will continue adding to this number throughout this year to further enhance EOIR’s capacity to meet the tremendous challenges we face.”

Xiomara Davis-Gumbs, Immigration Judge, Dallas Immigration Court

Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch appointed Judge Davis-Gumbs to begin hearing cases in January 2016. Judge Davis-Gumbs earned a Bachelor of Science degree in 1983 from John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York and a Juris Doctor in 1992 from Touro College, Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center. From 2008 through 2015, Judge Davis-Gumbs served in the Office of the Chief Counsel, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), in Dallas, in various capacities including deputy chief counsel, and previously as associate counsel, Central Law Division, and as associate counsel, Training and Knowledge Management Division. From 2002 through 2008, Judge Davis-Gumbs served as assistant chief counsel in the Office of Principal Legal Advisor, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, DHS, in Newark, N.J. From 1997 through 2002, Judge Davis-Gumbs served as an asylum officer in the Office of International Affairs, in the former Immigration and Naturalization Service, U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), in Rosedale, N.Y. From 1994 through 1997, Judge Davis-Gumbs served as special assistant/litigation coordinator for the Federal Bureau of Prisons, DOJ, in New York, N.Y. From 1993 through 1994, Judge

— more —

EOIR Swears in Nine Immigration Judges

Page 2

Davis-Gumbs served as a law clerk, and from 1988 through 1993, as an inmate grievance counselor in the Trial Unit, New York City Department of Corrections. Judge Davis-Gumbs is a member of the New York Bar.

Jennifer M. Gorland, Immigration Judge, Detroit Immigration Court

Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch appointed Judge Gorland to begin hearing cases in January 2016. Judge Gorland received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1982 from the University of Michigan and a Juris Doctor in 1985 from Wayne State University School of Law. From 1989 through 2015, Judge Gorland served in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Michigan, in Detroit, as an assistant U.S. attorney in various capacities, including: first assistant U.S. attorney; chief, General Crimes Unit; deputy chief, and previously as assistant U.S. attorney, General Crimes Unit; assistant U.S. attorney, Economic Crimes Unit; and, as assistant U.S. attorney, Civil Division. From 1985 through 1989, Judge Gorland served as an associate for Pepper, Hamilton and Scheetz, in Detroit. Judge Gorland is a member of the State Bar of Michigan.

Denise C. Hochul, Immigration Judge, Buffalo Immigration Court

Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch appointed Judge Hochul to begin hearing cases in January 2016. Judge Hochul received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1980 from the State University of New York at Buffalo and a Juris Doctor in 1985 from the Ohio Northern University, Claude W. Pettit College of Law. From 1996 through 2015, Judge Hochul served in the Office of the Chief Counsel, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Department of Homeland Security, in Buffalo, in various capacities, including: senior attorney; assistant chief counsel; designated human rights law special interest attorney; designated national security special interest attorney; member of the Trial Advocacy Training Team; and as a special assistant U.S. attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of New York. From 1987 through 1996, she served as an assistant district attorney in the Erie County District Attorney's Office in Buffalo. Judge Hochul is a member of the New York Bar.

Mark J. Jebson, Immigration Judge, Detroit Immigration Court

Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch appointed Judge Jebson to begin hearing cases in January 2016. Judge Jebson received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1990 from the University of California, Los Angeles, a Juris Doctor in 1994 from the John Marshall Law School, and a Master of Laws degree in 1995 from the New York University School of Law. From 2003 through 2015, Judge Jebson served in the Office of Chief Counsel, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Department of Homeland Security, in Detroit, in various capacities, including: senior attorney, deputy chief counsel, assistant chief counsel, and as a special assistant U.S. attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Michigan. From 2002 through 2003, Judge Jebson served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Texas, in Dallas. From 1997 through 2002, Judge Jebson served as an assistant district counsel in the former Immigration and Naturalization

— more —

EOIR Swears in Nine Immigration Judges

Page 3

Service, U.S. Department of Justice, in Detroit. From 1996 through 1997, he served as a judicial law clerk for the Michigan Supreme Court, and from 1995 through 1996, as a prehearing attorney for the Michigan Court of Appeals, in Detroit. Judge Jebson is a member of the Illinois State Bar and the State Bar of Michigan.

Margaret M. Kolbe, Immigration Judge, New York Immigration Court

Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch appointed Judge Kolbe to begin hearing cases in January 2016. Judge Kolbe received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1987 from the University of Cincinnati, a Master of Arts degree in 1989 from the University of Cincinnati, and a Juris Doctor in 1996 from the Notre Dame Law School. From 2002 through 2015, Judge Kolbe served as assistant U.S. attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York, in Brooklyn, N.Y. From 1996 through 2002, Judge Kolbe served as an attorney advisor for the Board of Immigration Appeals, Executive Office for Immigration Review, U.S. Department of Justice, in Falls Church, Va., and from 1991 through 1993, as a Peace Corps volunteer in Gabon, Africa. Judge Kolbe is a member of the Ohio Bar.

Ramin Rastegar, Immigration Judge, Newark Immigration Court

Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch appointed Judge Rastegar to begin hearing cases in January 2016. Judge Rastegar received a Bachelor of Science in 1991 from George Mason University and a Juris Doctor in 1995 from New York Law School. From 2000 through 2015, Judge Rastegar served as assistant chief counsel in the Office of the Chief Counsel, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, in New York, N.Y. From 1997 through 2000, Judge Rastegar served as an associate at Barst and Mukamal LLP, in New York, N.Y., and from 1996 through 1997, as an associate in the Law Offices of Ronald Salomon, in New York, N.Y. Judge Rastegar is a member of the Connecticut and New York Bars.

Shifra Rubin, Immigration Judge, Newark Immigration Court

Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch appointed Judge Rubin to begin hearing cases in January 2016. Judge Rubin received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1992 from Rutgers University and a Juris Doctor in 2002 from Rutgers School of Law. From 2003 through 2015, Judge Rubin served in various capacities for the Immigration Representation Project, Legal Services of New Jersey, in Edison, N.J., including serving as a senior attorney, supervising attorney, and staff attorney. Judge Rubin is a member of the New Jersey Bar.

Meredith B. Tyrakoski, Immigration Judge, San Antonio Immigration Court

Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch appointed Judge Tyrakoski to begin hearing cases in January 2016. Judge Tyrakoski received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1996 from Northwestern University and a Juris Doctor in 2003 from the William and Mary School of Law. From 2006 through 2015, Judge Tyrakoski served as an assistant U.S. attorney in a number of U.S.

— more —

EOIR Swears in Nine Immigration Judges

Page 4

Attorney's Offices throughout the country, including the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Nebraska in Omaha, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Texas in El Paso, Texas, and as special assistant attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Central District of California in Los Angeles, Calif. From 1997 through 2008, Judge Tyrakoski served in the U.S. Marine Corps in various capacities, including: staff judge advocate, legal assistance attorney, defense counsel, student judge advocate, operations officer, public affairs officer, and supply officer. Judge Tyrakoski is a member of the State Bar of Texas and the Virginia Bar.

Daniel H. Weiss, Immigration Judge, Dallas Immigration Court

Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch appointed Judge Weiss to begin hearing cases in January 2016. Judge Weiss received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1986 from the University of Pennsylvania and a Juris Doctor in 1990 from the University of Maryland School of Law. From 2010 through 2015, Judge Weiss served as senior trial attorney in the Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit, Criminal Section, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), in Washington, D.C. From 2005 through 2010, Judge Weiss served as deputy chief, and, previously as a trial attorney, in the Special Litigation Section, Civil Rights Division, DOJ. From 1992 through 2000, Judge Weiss served as an assistant public defender II in the Appellate Trials Division, State of Maryland Office of the Public Defender, in Baltimore. From 1991 through 1992 Judge Weiss served as an attorney at the Fidelity & Deposit Companies of Maryland, in Baltimore, and from 1990 through 1991, as law clerk to the Honorable Ellen Hollander, Circuit Court for Baltimore City. Judge Weiss is a member of the District of Columbia and Maryland Bars.

— 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.