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

PRESS RELEASE

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Nov. 19, 2026

EOIR Announces Chief Immigration Judge, 27 Immigration Judges, and 5 Temporary Immigration Judges

FALLS CHURCH, Va. – The Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) today announced the swearing in of the new chief immigration judge, 27 immigration judges, and 5 temporary immigration judges.

EOIR Acting Director Sirce E. Owen delivered remarks and Chief Immigration Judge Jamee E. Comans administered the oath of office during an investiture, which was held today at the Department of Justice's Great Hall in Washington, D.C.

"We are pleased to welcome Chief Immigration Judge Jamee E. Comans to her role leading our immigration courts," said Acting Director Owen. "Her appointment takes place at a time of historic growth. With this new class of immigration judges, EOIR has reached more than 800 immigration judges in its ranks, the highest level of immigration judges in the agency's history. Since January 2025, EOIR has reduced the backlog by over 678,000 cases and we are committed to bringing the total pending caseload down even further, while continuing to adhere to the rule of law."

After a thorough application process, Attorney General Todd Blanche appointed Jamee E. Comans to her new position as chief immigration judge, Ross J. Barlow, Christopher D. Bastian, Joshua E. Bird, Bard K. Brian, Gabriel M. Burgos Martinez, Elena Buruncenco, James S. Chase, David Cheuk, Silvia Delgado, Henry S. Dixon, Rebecca C. Duffin, Rebecca Dunn, Todd A. Durden, Joseph H. Garbarino, Arnold D. Greenstein, Katie Illingworth, Van H. Kyzar, Robert K. Lang, Sung H. Lee, Robert H. Moore, Kathryn Moryl, Jason A. Moscowitz, Kelsey L. Scanlon, Robert Schaefer, Erika Simpson, Ginger K. Vaudrey, and Matthew C. Watts to their new positions as immigration judges, and Elizabeth D. Anderson, Moises Castillo, Jack R. Hatfield II, Nicholas M. Jorge, and Joseph P. McCool to their new positions as temporary immigration judges.

These new adjudicators undergo a robust training program. Please see each new judge's biographical summary.

— EOIR —

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EOIR Announces Chief Immigration Judge, 27 Immigration Judges, and 5 Temporary Immigration Judges *Biographical Information*

Chief Immigration Judge

Jamee E. Comans, Chief Immigration Judge
Jamee E. Comans was appointed as the Chief Immigration Judge in November 2026. Judge Comans earned a Bachelor of Science in 2005 from St. Leo University and a Juris Doctorate in 2008 from Mississippi College School of Law. From June 2026 to October 2026, she served as the Assistant Director for policy after successfully serving in that role in an acting capacity since December 2025. From January 2023 to December 2025, she served as an Assistant Chief Immigration Judge first at the Baltimore and Hyattsville immigration courts and then at the LaSalle, Oakdale, New Orleans, and Baton Rouge immigration courts. From 2021 to 2022, she served as an Immigration Judge at the LaSalle Immigration Court. From 2018 to 2021, she served as Deputy Chief Counsel, Office of the Principal Legal Advisor (OPLA), U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), in Jena and Oakdale, Louisiana. From 2012 to 2018, she served as an Assistant Chief Counsel, OPLA, ICE, DHS, in Memphis. From 2009 to 2012, she was an Associate Attorney with the Law Offices of Matt Greenbaum LLP in New Orleans. From 2001 to 2022, she served in the U.S. Navy Reserve, first as Yeoman and then as a Navy Intelligence Officer, with the Office of Naval Intelligence, Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command, Defense Intelligence Agency and Naval Construction Force in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Judge Comans is a member of the Mississippi Bar.

Immigration Judges

Ross J. Barlow, Immigration Judge, Omaha Immigration Court
Ross J. Barlow was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in November 2026. Judge Barlow earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1988 from the University of Northern Iowa, and a Juris Doctor in 1991 from the University of Iowa College of Law. From 2005 to October 2026, he served as the first assistant county attorney in Clinton, Iowa. From August 1993 to 2005, he served as an assistant county attorney in Clinton, Iowa. From June 1991 to July 1993, he served as a judicial law clerk for the Third

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Judicial District of Iowa in Sioux City, Iowa. Judge Barlow is a member of the State Bar of Iowa.

Christopher D. Bastian, Immigration Judge, Houston – S. Gessner Road Immigration Court
Christopher D. Bastian was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in November 2026. Judge Bastian earned a Bachelor of Science in 2009 from Radford University, a Master of Science in 2018 from Radford University, and a Juris Doctor in 2024 from the University of Baltimore School of Law. From January 2026 to October 2026, he served as an assistant U.S. attorney with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Texas in Corpus Christi. From August 2024 to January 2026, he served as an assistant chief counsel with the Office of the Principal Legal Advisor, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, in San Antonio. Prior to law school, Judge Bastian served as a member of law enforcement. Judge Bastian is a member of the Maryland State Bar.

Joshua E. Bird, Immigration Judge, Miami Krome (Detained) Immigration Court
Joshua E. Bird was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in November 2026. Judge Bird earned a Bachelor of Arts, *cum laude*, in 2011 from the University of North Florida, a Juris Doctor, *magna cum laude*, in 2014 from Florida Coastal School of Law, and a Master of Divinity in 2025 from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. From December 2025 to October 2026, he served as counsel with the Office of the Principal Legal Advisor, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security in Jacksonville, Florida. From July 2022 to December 2025, he served as in-house counsel for Progressive Auto Insurance. Prior to that, from June 2018 to July 2022, he served as an in-house counsel for GEICO Insurance. From August 2015 to March 2018, he served as an assistant state attorney with the State Attorney's Office for the 7th Judicial Circuit of Florida. Since 2018, Judge Bird has served in the U.S. Army Reserves as a judge advocate in various roles including legal assistance, special victim counsel, trial counsel, and brigade judge advocate. He currently holds the rank of major. Judge Bird is a member of the Florida Bar.

Bard K. Brian, Immigration Judge, Indianapolis Immigration Court
Bard K. Brian was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in November 2026. Judge Brian earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1982 from Murray State University and a Juris Doctor in 1986 from the Salmon P. Chase College of Law. From 2008 to October 2026, he was a sole practitioner at Bard Brian Law Office in Paducah, Kentucky. From 2000 to 2006, he served as a district judge for McCracken County in Kentucky. Judge Brian is a member of the Kentucky Bar Association.

Gabriel M. Burgos Martinez, Immigration Judge, Miami Immigration Court
Gabriel M. Burgos Martinez was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in November 2026. Judge Burgos Martinez earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1998 from Fordham University and a Juris Doctor in 2011 from St. Thomas University School of Law. From September 2025 to October 2026, he served as counsel with the Office of

the Principal Legal Advisor, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security (DHS), in Sunrise, Florida. From January 2023 to September 2025, he served as a supervisory immigration services officer with the Vermont Service Center, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), DHS, in Essex Junction, Vermont. From September 2018 to January 2023, he served as a senior asylum officer with the Asylum Division, USCIS, DHS, in Miami. From July 2014 to September 2018, he was an attorney at Gabriel M. Burgos PLLC in Weston, Florida. From March 2014 to June 2014, he served as volunteer attorney at Legal Aid of Manasota, in Sarasota, Florida. From January 2013 to February 2014, he served as a paralegal specialist with the Office of the Garrison Attorney, U.S. Army, Department of Defense, in Doral, Florida. Judge Burgos Martinez is a member of the Florida Bar.

Elena Buruncenco, Immigration Judge, Falls Church Immigration Adjudication Center
Elena Buruncenco was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in November 2026. Judge Buruncenco earned her Bachelor of Science in 2011 from Kaplan University and a Juris Doctor in 2017 from the University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law. From 2022 to 2026, she served as an assistant chief counsel with the Office of the Principal Legal Advisor, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security (DHS), in the Annandale, Arlington, and Sterling, Virginia, field offices. From 2019 to 2022, she served in various adjudicator roles with the Arlington Asylum Office, U.S. Immigration and Citizenship Services, DHS. In 2019, she briefly served as a contract attorney with the Executive Office of the President of the United States, Office of the Trade Representative. Judge Buruncenco is a member of the Maryland State Bar.

James S. Chase, Immigration Judge, Chicago Immigration Court
James S. Chase was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in November 2026. Judge Chase earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1984 from Cornell University and a Juris Doctor in 1991 from the Boston University School of Law. From September 2008 to September 2025, he was assistant general counsel with the Tennessee Valley Authority in Knoxville, Tennessee. From April 2000 to August 2008, he was of counsel with Hunton & Williams LLP in Knoxville, Tennessee. From October 1992 to March 2000, he was a partner with Robinson & McElwee LLP in Charleston, Virginia, and from September 1991 to September 1992, he was a law clerk with the Rhode Island Supreme Court in Providence, Rhode Island. Judge Chase served 27 years in the U.S. Army and West Virginia Army National Guard, including assignments as a field artillery officer in Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and Baumholder, Federal Republic of Germany, and deployments as a judge advocate general to Arifjan, Kuwait, and Tikrit, Iraq. Judge Chase is a member of the Tennessee Bar.

David Cheuk, Immigration Judge, Newark Immigration Court
David Cheuk was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in November 2026. Judge Cheuk earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2006 from University of North Carolina, Asheville, and a Juris Doctor in 2015 from Seton Hall University School of Law. From April 2024 to October 2026, he served as an assistant chief counsel with

the Office of the Principal Legal Advisor (OPLA), U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, in New York. From April 2023 to April 2024, he served as an agency attorney with the New York City Department of Education. From December 2018 to April 2023, he served as an assistant chief counsel with the New York City Law Department. From September 2017 to December 2018, he served as an associate attorney with Vaslas Lepowsky & Hauss LLP, and from August 2016 to August 2017, he served as a law clerk with the Essex County Superior Court in New Jersey. Judge Cheuk is a member of the New Jersey State Bar and the New York State Bar.

Silvia Delgado, Immigration Judge, Santa Ana Immigration Court
Silvia Delgado was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in November 2026. Judge Delgado earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2005 from the New Mexico State University and a Juris Doctor in 2010 from the University of New Mexico School of Law. From July 2023 to October 2026, she was an assistant U.S. attorney with the District of New Mexico. From July 2020 to July 2023, she served as an assistant federal public defender in the District of New Mexico. From March 2017 to June 2020, she was an administrative law judge with the Administrative Hearings Office for the State of New Mexico. Judge Delgado is a member of the State Bar of New Mexico.

Henry S. Dixon, Immigration Judge, Falls Church Immigration Adjudication Center
Henry S. Dixon was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in November 2026. Judge Dixon earned a Bachelor of Science in 1991 from the University of Illinois and a Juris Doctor in 1997 from John Marshall Law School. From December 2024 to June 2026, he was a major general with the U.S. Army and served as the commanding general of Joint Task Force North at Fort Bliss, Texas. From June 2023 to October 2024, he served as deputy commanding general with the U.S. Army Central at Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina. From June 2021 to June 2023, he served as director of operations at Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina. From April 2019 to April 2021, he served as deputy director of operations at U.S. Northern Command, Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado. From January 2018 to March 2019, he served as director of operations at NATO Multi-National Division Northeast, at Elbąg, Poland. From July 2015 to December 2017, he served as an investigator with the Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, in Chicago. From May 2011 to December 2014, he was a program manager for Imperatis Corporation in Arlington, Virginia. From June 2010 to May 2011, he served as an investigator with the Cook County Office of the Independent Inspector General in Chicago. From July 1999 to June 2010, he was partner at the law firm of Dixon and Giesen in Dixon, Illinois. From November 1997 to May 1999, he was a trial attorney at Gavin, Lowery, and Meade in Chicago. Judge Dixon is a member of the Illinois State Bar.

Rebecca C. Duffin, Immigration Judge, Adelanto Immigration Court
Rebecca C. Duffin was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in November 2026. Judge Duffin earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2006 from Saint Mary's College

and a Juris Doctor in 2009 from Chapman University School of Law. From February 2024 to October 2026, she served as a district court judge for the Third Judicial District Court in Las Cruces, New Mexico. From January 2019 to February 2024, she served as a magistrate judge and presiding magistrate judge for the Doña Ana County Magistrate Court in Las Cruces, New Mexico. From February 2012 to July 2018, she served as an assistant district attorney for the Third Judicial District Attorney's Office in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Judge Duffin is a member of the State Bar of New Mexico.

Rebecca Dunn, Immigration Judge, Chelmsford Immigration Court
Rebecca Dunn was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in November 2026. Judge Dunn earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2001 from Muhlenberg College, a Master of Social Work in 2003 from the University of Kentucky, and a Juris Doctor in 2010 from Hofstra University School of Law. From June 2023 to November 2026, she served as department head of legal assistance at Regional Legal Service Office Mid-Atlantic, Detachment Groton, U.S. Navy Judge Advocate General's Corps, in Groton, Connecticut. From January 2014 to June 2023, she served as senior appellate counsel in the Appeals Bureau of the Nassau County District Attorney's Office in Mineola, New York. From September 2010 to December 2013, she served as an assistant district attorney in the trial bureaus of the Nassau County District Attorney's Office in Mineola, New York. Judge Dunn is a member of the Connecticut Bar and New York State Bar.

Todd A. Durden, Immigration Judge, Houston – Greenspoint Park Immigration Court
Todd A. Durden was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in November 2026. Judge Durden earned a Bachelor of Science in 1985 from the University of Maryland and a Juris Doctor in 1989 from the Baylor University School of Law. From December 2025 to October 2026, he served as a special assistant U.S. attorney with the Northern District of Texas at Dallas. From October 2025 to December 2025, he served as an assistant chief counsel with the Office of the Principal Legal Advisor, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, in Dallas. From September 2023 to October 2025, he was an attorney advisor with the U.S. Navy at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, Texas. From January 2022 to September 2023, he served as an attorney advisor with the U.S. Air Force at Laughlin Air Force Base Texas. From March 2005 to August 2008, he served as an assistant federal public defender in Del Rio, Texas. His prior public service includes two terms as an elected state prosecutor in Wise and Kinney counties, Texas. Judge Durden is a member of the State Bar of Texas.

Joseph H. Garbarino, Immigration Judge, Baton Rouge Immigration Court
Joseph H. Garbarino was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in November 2026. Judge Garbarino earned a Bachelor of Music Education in 1987, and a Juris Doctor in 1990, both from Louisiana State University, and a Master of Business Administration in 2012 from Auburn University. From July 2006 to October 2026, he was a senior staff attorney at The Hartford Insurance Company in Metairie, Louisiana. From August 1997 to March 2006, he was trial counsel at Allstate Insurance Company in Lafayette, Louisiana. From August 1996 to July 1997, he was an associate at O'Neal Walsh & Associates in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. From August 1992 to July 1996, he was an associate at the Law Offices of Matthew J. Hill Jr. in Lafayette, Louisiana. From April 1991 to

July 1992, he was an associate at Gist, Methvin, Hughes & Munsterman in Alexandria, Louisiana. Judge Garbarino is a member of the Louisiana State Bar.

Arnold D. Greenstein, Immigration Judge, Falls Church Immigration Adjudication Center
Arnold D. Greenstein was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in November 2026. Judge Greenstein earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1993 from Manhattanville University and a Juris Doctor in 2002 from Suffolk University Law School. From May 2009 to October 2026, he served as a senior attorney advisor to the administrative appeals judges of the Appeals Council, Office of Appellate Operations, Social Security Administration, in Washington, D.C. From November 2010 to July 2013, he served as a commissioner with the Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs in Montgomery County, Maryland. From December 2002 to May 2009, he was in private practice in Bethesda, Maryland, and Washington D.C., and he was a sole practitioner in Newton, Massachusetts. From September 1992 to September 2000, he served as a reservist then as an inactive reservist with the U.S. Air Force. Judge Greenstein is a member of the Maryland State Bar.

Katie Illingworth, Immigration Judge, Memphis Immigration Court
Katie Illingworth was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in November 2026. Judge Illingworth earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2004 from the University of Oklahoma and a Juris Doctor in 2007 from the Catholic University of America. From December 2025 to October 2026, she served as counsel with the Office of the Principal Legal Advisor, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, in Oklahoma City. From July 2023 to December 2025, she served as the senior civilian supervisory attorney for Space Base Delta 1 at Peterson Space Force Base, Colorado. From July 2018 to July 2023, she served as an attorney advisor at Peterson Space Force Base, Colorado. From August 2011 to April 2018, she served as corporate counsel at First Financial Network Inc. in Oklahoma City. From October 2007 to July 2011, she served with the U.S. Air Force Judge Advocate General's Corps as an assistant staff judge advocate in the following locations: Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii; Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan; and Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado. Judge Illingworth is a member of the Kansas Bar and the Oklahoma Bar.

Van H. Kyzar, Immigration Judge, LaSalle Immigration Court
Van H. Kyzar was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in November 2026. Judge Kyzar earned a Bachelor of Science in 1979 from Northwestern State University and a Juris Doctor in 1982 from the Paul M. Hebert Law Center, Louisiana State University. From 1985 to 2004, he was the senior partner in a private law firm and also served as an assistant district attorney for the 10th Judicial District of Louisiana, from 1985 to 1996. From January 1997 until his retirement in October 2026, he served as a district attorney for the 10th Judicial District of Louisiana. From January 2017, until his retirement in October 2026, he served as an appellate court judge for the Louisiana Third Circuit Court of Appeal. Judge Kyzar is a member of the Louisiana State Bar Association.

Robert K. Lang, Immigration Judge, Kansas City Immigration Court
Robert K. Lang was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in November 2026. Judge Lang earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1984 from the University of Alabama and a Juris Doctor in 1987 from the University of Alabama School of Law. From December 2025 to October 2026, he was counsel with the Office of the Principal Legal Advisor, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, at the Erie-Gulf Region, Birmingham Office, in Birmingham Alabama. From September 1996 to October 2024, he served as the chief assistant district attorney for the 36th Circuit of Alabama at the Lawrence County District Attorney's Office. Prior to that he served as assistant district attorney for the 8th Judicial Circuit of Alabama at the Morgan County District Attorney's Office. Judge Lang is a member of the Alabama State Bar Association.

Sung H. Lee, Immigration Judge, Fort Worth Immigration Adjudication Center
Sung H. Lee was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in November 2026. Judge Lee earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2010 from the University of California, Los Angeles, and a Doctor of Jurisprudence in 2015 from The University of Texas School of Law. From March 2024 to October 2026, he served as an attorney advisor with the Consolidated Legal Center, Federal Medical Center Carswell, Federal Bureau of Prisons (FBOP), Department of Justice (DOJ), in Fort Worth, Texas. From January 2023 to March 2024, he served as an assistant general counsel with the Employment Law Branch, FBOP, DOJ, in Grand Prairie, Texas. From September 2016 to December 2022, he served as an assistant chief counsel with the Labor and Employment Law Division, Office of the Principal Legal Advisor, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, in Houston and El Paso, Texas. Judge Lee is a member of the State Bar of Texas.

Robert H. Moore, Immigration Judge, Harlingen Immigration Court
Robert H. Moore was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in November 2026. Judge Moore earned a Bachelor of Science in 1985 from Texas A&M University and a Juris Doctor in 1989 from the University of Mississippi. From September 2004 to October 2026, he served as an attorney with the Office of Chief Counsel, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, in Del Rio, Texas. From January 1995 to September 2004, he served as assistant district attorney with the Cameron County District Attorney's Office in Brownsville, Texas. From August 1991 to August 1995, he served as an attorney with the law firm of Ransome and Ray in Brownsville, Texas. From August 1990 to August 1991, he served a law clerk to the Honorable William M. Mallett, U.S. Magistrate Judge, Southern District of Texas in McAllen, Texas. Judge Moore is a member of the State Bar of Texas.

Kathryn Moryl, Immigration Judge, Fort Snelling Immigration Court
Kathryn Moryl was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in November 2026. Judge Moryl earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2007 from Columbia University, a Juris Doctor in 2012 from the Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center, a Master of Arts in 2017 from American University, a Master of Science in 2021 from the National Intelligence University, and a Master of Science in 2024 from Champlain College. From March 2020 to March 2021, and from October 2024 to October 2026, she served as an FBI special agent assigned to

the FBI New York and Dallas field offices. From October 2022 to October 2024, she served as assistant general counsel for the FBI in Washington, D.C. From March 2021 to July 2021, and from January 2019 to March 2020, she served as an assistant district attorney and chief appellate attorney with the Essex County New York District Attorney's Office. From October 2017 to February 2018, she served as an assistant district attorney and chief appellate attorney with the Rensselaer County New York District Attorney's Office. From April 2016 to August 2017, she served as an appellate court attorney with the Third Department, Appellate Division in New York. From August 2012 to March 2016, she served as an assistant district attorney with the Sullivan County New York District Attorney's Office. Since August 2013, she has served as an Army judge advocate in the New York Army National Guard (August 2013-January 2024), and in the U.S. Army Reserves (January 2024-present), where she currently holds the rank of major. Judge Moryl is a member of the New York State Bar.

Jason A. Moscowitz, Immigration Judge, Las Vegas Immigration Court
Jason A. Moscowitz was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in November 2026. Judge Moscowitz earned a Bachelor of Science in 2007 from Texas Tech University, a Master of Science in 2014 from American Military University, and a Juris Doctorate in 2017 from Gonzaga University. From December 2017 to October 2026, he served as a senior deputy prosecutor at the Spokane County Prosecutor's Office in Spokane, Washington. From May 2016 to May 2017, he served as a law clerk with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Washington in Spokane. From February 2010 to December 2014, he served as a mobility pilot with the 92nd Aerial Refueling Wing at Fairchild Air Force Base in Spokane, Washington. Judge Moscowitz is a member of the Washington State Bar.

Kelsey L. Scanlon, Immigration Judge, Atlanta – W. Peachtree Street Immigration Court
Kelsey L. Scanlon was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in November 2026. Judge Scanlon earned a Bachelor of Science in 2009 from Campbellsville University and a Juris Doctor in 2012 from William Mitchell College of Law. From January 2024 to October 2026, she served as an assistant U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Georgia in Augusta. From June 2020 to January 2024, she served as the chief deputy county attorney for Cass County in Walker, Minnesota. From May 2014 to January 2018, she served as an assistant county attorney for Carver County in Chaska, Minnesota. From March 2012 to May 2014, she was an associate at Anderson & Skubitz PLLC in Le Sueur, Minnesota. Judge Scanlon is a member of the Minnesota State Bar.

Robert Schaefer, Immigration Judge, Omaha Immigration Court
Robert Schaefer was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in November 2026. Judge Schaefer earned a Bachelor of Professional Studies in 2003 from The Culinary Institute of America and a Juris Doctor in 2016 from Creighton University School of Law. From June 2025 to September of 2026, he was an attorney at Sawyer and Associates PLLC in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. From May 2022 to June 2023, he was an attorney at Goosmann Law Firm in Omaha, Nebraska. From January

2016 to April 2022, he was an attorney at Schaefer Shapiro LLP in Omaha, Nebraska. From June 2010 to June 2012, he served as director of operations at Alegent Health in Omaha, Nebraska. Prior to law school, and periodically throughout his career, Judge Schaefer was a chef for more than 20 years. Judge Schaefer is a member of the Nebraska State Bar and the North Carolina State Bar.

Erika Simpson, Immigration Judge, Chicago Immigration Court
Erika Simpson was appointed as immigration judge to begin hearing cases in November 2026. Judge Simpson earned a Bachelor of Science in 2006 from Oklahoma State University and a Juris Doctor in 2013 from Oklahoma City University School of Law. In September 2026, Judge Simpson served as an administrative law judge with the Civil Service Division, State of Oklahoma in Oklahoma City. From September 2023 to August 2026, she served as special district court judge for the Chickasaw Nation in Ada, Oklahoma. From January 2023 to August 2023, she was associate institutional equity officer and Title IX coordinator for the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center in Oklahoma City. From March 2021 to May 2022, she served as tribal special assistant U.S. attorney, a joint appointment through the Chickasaw Nation and Western District of Oklahoma. From March 2020 to March 2021, she worked at Simpson Legal Co. PLLC in Mustang, Oklahoma. From July 2017 to February 2020, she served as assistant district attorney for Canadian County in El Reno, Oklahoma. From September 2013 to June 2017, she served as assistant district attorney for Oklahoma County in Oklahoma City. Judge Simpson is a member of the Oklahoma Bar.

Ginger K. Vaudrey, Immigration Judge, Chelmsford Immigration Court
Ginger K. Vaudrey was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in November 2026. Judge Vaudrey earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2001 from Texas A&M University and a Juris Doctor in 2004 from the Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law. From January 2010 to October 2026, she served as an assistant chief counsel with the Office of the Principal Legal Advisor, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, at the Port Isabel Detention Center in Los Fresnos, Texas, and the Atlanta and Philadelphia field offices. From September 2005 to December 2009, she was an attorney with State Counsel for Offenders, Texas Board of Criminal Justice, in Huntsville, Texas. Judge Vaudrey is a member of the State Bar of Texas.

Matthew C. Watts, Immigration Judge, Denver Immigration Court
Matthew C. Watts was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in November 2026. Judge Watts earned a Bachelor of Science in 2006 from the University of Southern California and a Juris Doctor in 2011 from the University of Southern California. From November 2025 to October 2026, he served as a counsel with the Office of the Principal Legal Advisor, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, in the Pacific-Northwest region. From February 2017 to September 2025, he served as an attorney advisor with the Office of the Solicitor, Department of the Interior, in the Pacific-Northwest region. Judge Watts clerked for judges on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit and the U.S. District Court

for the Northern District of Georgia. Judge Watts is a member of the Idaho State Bar.

Temporary Immigration Judges

Elizabeth D. Anderson, Temporary Immigration Judge, Los Angeles – West Los Angeles Immigration Court
Elizabeth D. Anderson was appointed as a temporary immigration judge to begin hearing cases in November 2026. Judge Anderson earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2010 from the Virginia Military Institute and a Juris Doctor in 2013 from the University of Virginia School of Law. From October 2024 to October 2026, she was senior counsel at Wells Fargo in Los Angeles. From October 2021 to October 2024, she served as an attorney with the Federal Aviation Administration in El Segundo, California. From September 2018 to October 2021, she served as an attorney with U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, in Long Beach, California. From November 2013 to September 2018, she served as a judge advocate with the U.S. Marine Corps. Judge Anderson holds the rank of lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. Judge Anderson is a member of the State Bar of California and the Virginia State Bar.

Moises Castillo, Temporary Immigration Judge, Elizabeth Immigration Court
Moises Castillo was appointed as a temporary immigration judge to begin hearing cases in November 2026. Judge Castillo earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in 1999 from the University of Texas at El Paso, a Doctor of Jurisprudence in 2006 from Texas Tech University School of Law, a Master of Business Administration in 2006 from Texas Tech Rawls College of Business, a Master of Laws in 2016 from the United States Army Judge Advocate General's School, and a Master of Arts in 2022 from the U.S. Naval War College. From June 2024 to October 2026, he served as the chief of staff for the U.S. Army Reserve Legal Command in Gaithersburg, Maryland. From June 2022 to June 2024, he served as the deputy staff judge advocate at the 377th Theater Sustainment Command in New Orleans. From June 2018 to June 2021, he served as the deputy and chief of the Military Law Division and as the chief of administrative and civil law at the U.S. Army Reserve Command, Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. From June 2015 to June 2018, he served as an associate professor at the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's School in Charlottesville, Virginia. From January 2012 to June 2015, he served as the deputy staff judge advocate at the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) in Coraopolis, Pennsylvania. From June 2010 to January 2012, he served as the chief of administrative and civil law and as trial counsel for the 1st Armored Division at Fort Bliss, Texas. Judge Castillo holds the rank of colonel. Judge Castillo is a member of the State Bar of Texas.

Jack R. Hatfield II, Temporary Immigration Judge, Denver Immigration Court
Jack R. Hatfield II was appointed as a temporary immigration judge to begin hearing cases in November 2026. Judge Hatfield earned a Bachelor of Science in 1999 from Northern Arizona University and a Juris Doctor in 2005 from the University of Wyoming College of Law. From September 2024 to October 2026, he served as an assistant

district attorney at the First Judicial District Attorney's Office in Cheyenne, Wyoming. From May 2019 to September 2024, he served as a deputy county and prosecuting attorney at the Park County Attorney's Office in Cody, Wyoming. Judge Hatfield has served in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps since July 2007 and holds the rank of lieutenant colonel. Judge Hatfield is a member of the Wyoming State Bar.

Nicholas M. Jorge, Temporary Immigration Judge, Conroe Immigration Court
Nicholas M. Jorge was appointed as a temporary immigration judge to begin hearing cases in November 2026. Judge Jorge earned a Bachelor of Science in 2010 from Thomas Edison State College, a Juris Doctor in 2014 from Tulane University School of Law, and a Master of Laws in 2016 from Western New England University School of Law. Since July 2018, he has served in the Active Guard Reserve program of the U.S. Army Reserve in positions including deputy command judge advocate and chief of military justice. From September 2017 to July 2018, he served as director of the Estate Planning Project and clinical fellow at the Veterans Legal Clinic of the Legal Services Center of Harvard Law School. From April 2016 to March 2017, he served as a legal assistance attorney and special victims' counsel with the U.S. Army at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Judge Jorge holds the rank of major in the U.S. Army Reserve. Judge Jorge is a member of the Louisiana State Bar and the Massachusetts Bar.

Joseph P. McCool, Temporary Immigration Judge, Denver Immigration Court
Joseph P. McCool was appointed as a temporary immigration judge to begin hearing cases in November 2026. Judge McCool earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2001 from Haverford College and a Juris Doctor in 2007 from Temple University Beasley School of Law. From April 2023 to October 2026, he served as a trial attorney with the Defense Contract Management Agency, Department of War, in Philadelphia. From March 2021 to March 2023, he was an associate at Montgomery McCracken Walker & Rhoads LLP in Philadelphia. From November 2018 to January 2021, he served as an assistant U.S. attorney with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Georgia, in Savannah. From August 2007 to November 2018, he served as an assistant district attorney at the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office. Judge McCool also serves as a major in the U.S. Army Reserve Judge Advocate General's Corps, where he is currently chief of national security law for the U.S. Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command (Airborne), in Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. Judge McCool is a member of the New Jersey State Bar and Pennsylvania Bar.

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