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NOTICE

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Executive Office for Immigration Review Announces Four New Assistant Chief Immigration Judges

FALLS CHURCH, Va. – The Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) today announced the selection of four new assistant chief immigration judges (ACIJJs). ACIJJs are responsible for overseeing the operations of the immigration courts to which they are assigned. In addition to their management responsibilities, the new ACIJJs will continue to hear cases.

Biographical information follows:

Grady A. Crooks, Assistant Chief Immigration Judge, LaSalle Immigration Court

Judge Crooks earned a Bachelor of Science in 1996 from North Dakota State University, a Master of Arts in 1999 from The George Washington University, and a Juris Doctor in 2004 from the Rutgers University School of Law. From October 2018 to August 2019, he served as an immigration judge at the LaSalle Immigration Court. In 2017, he served as an assistant U.S. attorney at the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Louisiana in Shreveport, Louisiana. From 2005 to 2016, he was an attorney for the U.S. Air Force in the following locations: Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana; Guantánamo Bay, Cuba; Hurlburt Field, Florida; International Security Assistance Force in Kabul, Afghanistan; Baghdad, Iraq; Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida; and Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska. Judge Crooks is a member of the District of Columbia Bar.

Theresa Holmes-Simmons, Assistant Chief Immigration Judge, Charlotte Immigration Court

Judge Holmes-Simmons received a Bachelor of Arts in 1985 from Brooklyn College, City University of New York, and a Juris Doctorate in 1988 from Rutgers University School of Law. From October 2008 to August 2019, she served as an immigration judge at the Charlotte Immigration Court. From 1998 to October 2008, Judge Holmes-Simmons served as an immigration judge at the New York City Immigration Court. From 1996 to 1998, she served as an assistant district counsel for the former Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), in New York. From 1994 to 1996, Judge Holmes-Simmons worked as a special prosecutor and assistant attorney general, New York State Attorney General's Office. From 1988 to 1994, she served as an assistant district attorney with the New York County District Attorney's Office. Judge Holmes-Simmons is a member of the New Jersey State and New York Bars.

Hugo R. Martinez, Assistant Chief Immigration Judge, Fort Worth Immigration Adjudication Center

Judge Martinez earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2001 from Texas Wesleyan University and a Juris Doctor in 2004 from Texas A&M University School of Law. From October 2018 to August 2019, he served as an immigration judge at the Fort Worth Immigration and Adjudication Center. From 2010 to 2018, he served as an assistant U.S. attorney at the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Texas in Corpus Christi, Texas. From 2005 to 2010 he was assistant district attorney for the Tarrant County District Attorney's Office in Fort Worth, Texas. In 2004, he was a law clerk with the Reina, Bates & Kowaski Immigration Law Group in Dallas. Judge Martinez is a member of the State Bar of Texas.

Christopher R. Seppanen, Assistant Chief Immigration Judge, Detroit Immigration Court

Judge Seppanen earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1990 from Alma College and a Juris Doctor in 1993 from the University of Kentucky College of Law. From August 2017 to August 2019, he served as an immigration judge at the Cleveland Immigration Court. From 2002 to 2017, he worked for the State of Michigan in Lansing, Michigan, serving as a supervisory administrative law judge, 2002 to 2012; a deputy chief administrative law judge, 2012 to 2014; and a chief administrative law judge, 2014 to 2017. From 1997 to 2002, he served as an administrative law judge for the State of Michigan, in Manistee, Michigan. From 1996 to 1997, he served as a trial attorney for the Office of Public Advocacy, in Alpena, Michigan. Judge Seppanen is a member of the Michigan State Bar.

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The Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) is an agency within the Department of Justice. EOIR's mission is to adjudicate immigration cases by fairly, expeditiously, and uniformly interpreting and administering the Nation's immigration laws. Under delegated authority from the Attorney General, EOIR conducts immigration court proceedings, appellate reviews, and administrative hearings. EOIR is committed to ensuring fairness in all the cases it adjudicates.