EOIR NEWS

Department of Justice

Executive Office for Immigration Review

Monday, August 22, 2011

The Executive Office for Immigration Review Swears in Two New Immigration Judges

The Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) today announced the investiture of two new immigration judges who will join the immigration judge corps in Los Angeles, Calif. Deputy Chief Immigration Judge Michael C. McGoings presided over the investiture during a ceremony held at EOIR's headquarters on Aug. 19, 2011.

After a thorough application process, Attorney General Eric Holder appointed Robert E. Coughlon and Arlene E. Dorfman to their new positions.

"We are pleased to welcome Immigration Judges Coughlon and Dorfman to our already strong immigration judge corps," said Chief Immigration Judge Brian M. O'Leary. "Their arrival will help mitigate the pending caseload in Los Angeles, the Nation's second busiest immigration court."

Biographical information follows.

Robert E. Coughlon, Immigration Judge, Los Angeles Immigration Court

Attorney General Eric Holder appointed Judge Coughlon in July 2011. Judge Coughlon received an associate of arts degree in 1974 from College of the Desert, Palm Desert, Calif. He then received a bachelor of law degree in 1977 and a juris doctorate in 1978, both from Western State University College of Law. From August 2010 through July 2011, Judge Coughlon served as a special assistant U.S. attorney with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona in Phoenix. Prior to that, from March 2010 through July 2010, he was an assistant chief counsel for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), in Phoenix. From November 2007 to March 2010, he served as assistant chief counsel for ICE in El Centro, Calif. From November 2006 to November 2007, Judge Coughlon was a transportation security officer for the DHS, Transportation Security Administration, in Phoenix. During this time, from September 2007 to October 2007, he was program director, immigration services, at Friendly House, a non-profit community service organization in Phoenix. From 1981 to 2006, Judge Coughlon was in private practice in Moorpark, Calif. From 1974 to 1981, he worked for the former Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) as an immigration examiner and supervisory immigration examiner in Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. From 1972 to 1974, Judge Coughlon was an agent for the former INS, U.S. Border

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Patrol, in Indio, Calif. From 1970 to 1972, he served as an air traffic control specialist for the Federal Aviation Administration in Farmington, Minn. From 1967 to 1970, he was an agent for the U.S. Border Patrol in Calexico, Calif. From 1962 to 1966, he was an air traffic control and warning operator for the U.S. Air Force. Judge Coughlon is a member of the State Bar of California.

Arlene E. Dorfman, Immigration Judge, Los Angeles Immigration Court

Attorney General Eric Holder appointed Judge Dorfman in July 2011. Judge Dorfman received a bachelor of arts degree in 1996 from the University of California, Los Angeles, and a juris doctorate in 2000 from Loyola Law School. From 2009 to 2011, she served as senior attorney for the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), in Los Angeles. From March 2003 to 2009, she was an assistant chief counsel for ICE. From 2000 to February 2003, she was an assistant chief counsel for the former Immigration and Naturalization Service. Judge Dorfman is a member of the State Bar of Arizona.

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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.

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