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NEWS RELEASE

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Immigration Judges Take Oath of Office In Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES, CA – David C. Anderson, Christine A. Bither, Anthony T. Giattina, Patrick T. McDermott, and George W. Proctor were sworn in today as Immigration Judges during an investiture ceremony at 2 p.m., at the U.S. District Court, Los Angeles. Chief Immigration Judge Michael J. Creppy, from the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) in Falls Church, VA, administered the oath of office.

They join the ranks of more than 200 Immigration Judges located in 52 Immigration Courts throughout the Nation. Immigration Judges are responsible for conducting formal administrative proceedings to determine whether foreign-born individuals who are charged with violations of federal immigration law should be removed from the United States or may be granted relief from removal. Immigration Judges decide each case independently and their decisions are final unless appealed or certified to the Board of Immigration Appeals. In the past year, Immigration Judges completed more than 250,000 such proceedings. They also are authorized to administer oaths of citizenship to candidates for naturalization.

Judge David C. Anderson was appointed Immigration Judge in April 2003. He received his undergraduate degree in 1988 from Brigham Young University, and his Juris Doctorate in 1991 from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law. Prior to joining the Executive Office for Immigration Review, Judge Anderson served as an assistant district counsel with the Department of Homeland Security [formerly the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS)] in San Pedro, California, from January 2000 until his appointment in April 2003. He also served as assistant district counsel with the INS in Los Angeles from December 1998 to January 2000. Judge Anderson served as a judge advocate in the U.S. Marine Corps from June 1992 to November 1998. He is a member of the California Bar.

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Judge Christine A. Bither was appointed Immigration Judge in January 2003. She received her undergraduate degree in 1969 from Marietta College, an M.Ed. in 1970 from the University of Massachusetts, an M.Ed. in 1982 from the University of Maine, and her J.D. in 1989 from the University of Maine School of Law. Judge Bither worked as an attorney and Senior Litigation Counsel in the Civil Division of the United States Department of Justice, Office of Immigration Litigation, Washington, DC, from 1995 to 2003. From 1994 until 1995, she was in private practice in Portland, Maine. Judge Bither joined the Department of Justice through the Attorney General's Honor Law Program as an attorney in the District Counsel's office of the former Immigration and Naturalization Service in San Francisco from 1989 to 1994. Judge Bither is a member of both the California and Maine Bars.

Judge Anthony T. Giattina was appointed Immigration Judge in June 2003. He received his B.A. in 1963 from the University of Notre Dame, his J.D. in 1966 from the University of Alabama School of Law, and has taken post-graduate legal courses from Georgetown School of Law. From October 1997 to June 2003, Judge Giattina was in private practice in Fair Oaks, California. He served as general counsel to the California Housing Finance Agency in Sacramento from September 1990 to October 1997. Judge Giattina was a partner in the law firm of Giattina and Winberg in Sacramento from August 1979 to September 1980. From November 1976 to August 1979, he was an associate in the law firm of Miller and Chevalier in Washington, DC. Judge Giattina served as special litigation counsel, Civil Division, Department of Justice, Washington, DC, from 1971 to 1976. He worked as an associate for the law firm of Arnold and Porter in Washington, DC, from 1969 to 1971. Judge Giattina is a member of the Alabama, District of Columbia, and California Bars.

Judge Patrick T. McDermott was appointed Immigration Judge in January 2003. He received his B.A. in 1966 from St. Edward's University, and his J.D. in 1969 from St. Mary's University School of Law. Judge McDermott served as regional counsel for the Department of Homeland Security [formerly the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS)] in Dallas, Texas, from August 1986 to January 2003. He also served as regional counsel in Twin Cities, Minnesota, from April 1984 to August 1986. From 1980 to August 1984, Judge McDermott worked as district counsel and trial attorney for the INS in San Diego, and from 1973 to 1976 worked as a naturalization and citizenship attorney in Los Angeles. He worked as assistant district attorney for the State of Texas in Bexar County, San Antonio, from 1972 to 1973, and as a trial attorney in the City Attorney's Office in San Antonio, from 1971 to 1972. Judge McDermott worked as a special agent at the Federal Bureau of Investigations in Washington, DC, from 1969 to 1970. He was an adjunct professor at Baylor University School of Law in Waco, Texas, in 1987, and at the University of San Diego Law School from 1981 to 1983. He is a member of the Texas Bar.

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Judge George W. Proctor was appointed Immigration Judge in January 2003. He received his B.A. from the University of Arkansas in 1964, and his J.D. from the University of Arkansas School of Law in 1969. From 1997 to 2003, Judge Proctor was involved in volunteer work which included working with the Mongolian Foundation and tutoring homeless children. From 1988 to 1997, he served in several positions in the Criminal Division at the Department of Justice in Washington, DC: Chief, Office of International Affairs; Chief, Asset Forfeiture; and Deputy Chief, Organized Crime and Racketeering. Judge Proctor was an assistant U.S. Attorney for the Territory of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands from 1987 to 1988. From 1979 to 1987, he served as the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Arkansas under Presidents Carter and Reagan. As U.S. Attorney, Judge Proctor chaired the Attorney General's Advisory Committee of United States Attorneys. He was in private practice from 1970 to 1979 and worked as a law clerk to an Arkansas Supreme Court Justice from 1969 to 1970. Judge Proctor is a member of the Arkansas State Bar.

EOIR is a component of the Department of Justice which, on behalf of the Attorney General, adjudicates cases involving aliens who are charged with immigration violations. The agency also includes the Board of Immigration Appeals to hear appeals of Immigration Judge decisions and the Office of the Chief Administrative Hearing Officer to handle employment-related immigration matters.

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