



Immigration Law

Q & A

with Nevada's Immigration Court

BY NEVADA LAWYER MAGAZINE STAFF

The Executive Office for Immigration Review's (EOIR) immigration courts are not part of the federal court system. EOIR's immigration judges conduct removal hearings and other administrative court proceedings. **The EOIR recently agreed to answer some questions for Nevada Lawyer magazine on how the immigration courts operate.**

Q: Who are the judges currently serving Nevada in Immigration Court?

A: The judges include:

Daniel J. Daugherty, Assistant Chief Immigration Judge, Las Vegas and Salt Lake City Immigration Courts

Daugherty was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in October 2015 and as an assistant chief immigration judge, based in Las Vegas, in November 2017. Judge Daugherty earned his J.D. in 1987 from the University of Toledo, and a masters in national security in 2006 from the U.S. Navy War College. From 2015-17, he served as an immigration judge at the Las Vegas Immigration Court. In 2015, he honorably retired as the chief judge for the Navy-Marine Corps Trial Judiciary, after serving more than 25 years on active duty in the U.S. Marine Corps. From 2011-14, he served as the chief trial judge for the Department of the Navy. From 2008-11 and 2002-05, he served as a military judge. From 1994-97, he served as the Assistant Prosecuting Attorney in Delaware County, Ohio. From 1989-94, he served intermittently as a defense attorney and prosecutor. Judge Daugherty is a member of the Ohio State Bar.

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Glen R. Baker, Immigration Judge

Baker was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in November 2014. Judge Baker earned his J.D. in 1994 from Thomas M. Cooley Law School. From 1995 to 2014, he served as an attorney advisor, Board of Immigration Appeals, EOIR, Department of Justice (DOJ), in Falls Church, Virginia. During this time, from 2010-11, he served as an associate general counsel, EOIR, DOJ. From 1994-95, he worked as a judicial law clerk for Harlingen Immigration Court. From 1993-94, he was the managing editor of the Thomas M. Cooley Law Review. Judge Baker is a member of the North Carolina Bar.

Ann M. McDermott, Immigration Judge

McDermott was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in November 2018. Judge McDermott earned her J.D. in 2002 from Gonzaga University School of Law. From 2009-18, she served as senior deputy attorney general, chief deputy attorney general, and litigation bureau chief, Nevada Office of the Attorney General, in Las Vegas. From 2007-09, she was head administrator, Real Estate Division of the state of Nevada, in Las Vegas. From 2005-07, she served as a deputy attorney for injured workers for the state of Nevada, in Las Vegas. In 2005, she was a managing attorney at Kimball, Tirev & St. John, in Las Vegas. In 2004, she was in-house counsel at the Abbey Dental Center, in Las Vegas. From 2003-4, she was an associate at Mayor, Horner & Stryker Ltd., in Las Vegas. Judge McDermott is a member of the State Bar of Nevada.

An Mai Nguyen, Immigration Judge

Nguyen was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in April 2017. Judge Nguyen earned her J.D. in 2000 from Southwestern Law School. From 2007-17, she served as assistant chief counsel, Office of Chief Counsel, Immigration and Customs

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Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, in Las Vegas. During this time, from 2009-2011, she served as special assistant U.S. attorney for the District of Nevada, in Las Vegas. From 2000-03, she served as assistant district counsel, with the former Immigration and Naturalization Service, Department of Justice, in Los Angeles, entering on duty through the Attorney General's Honors Program. Judge Nguyen is a member of the State Bar of California.

Lindsay M. Roberts, Immigration Judge

Roberts was appointed as an immigration judge to begin hearing cases in November 2018. Judge Roberts earned a Juris Doctor in 2003 from the Washington and Lee University School of Law. From 2015-18, she served as special assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Nevada, in Las Vegas. From 2004-15, she was an associate attorney and principal attorney with Goodman, Allen & Filetti PLLC, in Norfolk, Virginia. Judge Roberts is a member of the Virginia State Bar.

Q: What would you like attorneys to know about working with the Immigration Court?

A: The Las Vegas Immigration Court's webpage – www.justice.gov/eoir/las-vegas-immigration-court – contains useful information, including front window contact information, operation hours, public health updates, and any standing orders in effect.

The court continues to use telephonic appearances, OpenVoice, Webex, scheduling orders, and written pleadings to reduce the number of persons entering

the immigration court. We also encourage all attorneys to electronically file documents for eligible cases using the EOIR Courts & Appeals System (ECAS) – www.justice.gov/eoir/ECAS – which launched at the Las Vegas Immigration Court in December 2020.

New attorneys who would like to participate in an upcoming ECAS information session should check EOIR's notices – www.justice.gov/eoir/more-information – for upcoming stakeholder outreach invitations. The agency also plans to host a local stakeholder meeting in the fall.

The operating status of the Las Vegas Immigration Court can always be verified by checking EOIR's Operational Status webpage – www.justice.gov/eoir-operational-status/operational-status-map – and note that attorneys can also sign up for GovDelivery bulletins and access social media platforms under Stay Informed.

Q: What resources are available for attorneys?

A: Regarding resources, in October 2020, EOIR launched the Immigration Court Online Resource (ICOR) – icor.eoir.justice.gov/en/ – which provides information for attorneys and respondents who are pro se. ICOR is currently available in English and Spanish, with more language translations planned for the near future. EOIR continues to evaluate ways to best provide access and reduce barriers to immigration proceedings, and information about those proceedings.

Q: Are there any publications that might be useful guides for attorneys practicing before the Immigration Court?

A: With respect to resources for practitioners, the EOIR announced the publication of its first comprehensive and interactive Policy Manual in January – www.justice.gov/eoir/eoir-policy-manual. The manual is the

culmination of a multi-year effort to consolidate and update EOIR's relevant operational guidance, including identifying and addressing redundancies, ambiguities, surplusage, and outdated guidance.

With this online resource, users can access the procedures and practices in place for matters specifically before EOIR's Office of the Chief Immigration Judge, Board of Immigration Appeals, and Office of the Chief Administrative Hearing Officer. Attorneys can review requirements to appear before the court in the regularly updated Immigration Court Practice Manual – www.justice.gov/eoir/eoir-policy-manual/part-ii-ocij-practice-manual – contained within the Policy Manual.

Q: Will the detained docket continue to be by video from Pahrump, or are there plans to have a dedicated detained judge?

A: In regard to the docket-specific questions, the Las Vegas Immigration Court has successfully presided over the Reno docket by Video Teleconference

(VTC), with occasional in-person hearings at Reno, for many years. EOIR constantly monitors its caseload nationwide and shifts resources to meet needs in the most efficient possible manner. This includes opening new immigration courts or hearing locations. Detained dockets will continue to be heard by VTC for cases assigned to the Nye County Jail in Pahrump. All immigration judges hear detained cases.



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