



**U.S. Department of Justice**  
Executive Office for Immigration Review  
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# NOTICE

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## **Executive Office for Immigration Review Swears in Three New Board Members**

FALLS CHURCH, VA – The Executive Office for Immigration Review today announced the investiture of three new Board members, each of whom Attorney General William Barr appointed to the Board of Immigration Appeals in April 2020.

Biographical information follows:

### **Philip J. Montante Jr., Board Member**

Mr. Montante comes to the Board of Immigration Appeals after serving as an immigration judge since 1990, when he was initially appointed by former Attorney General Richard L. Thornburgh. He received a Bachelor of Business Administration in 1966 from Drake College, a Master of Education in 1967 from Florida Atlantic University, and a Doctor of Jurisprudence in 1971 from Samford University. From March 2019 to April 2020, he served as an assistant chief immigration judge, based in Buffalo, New York. From March 2018 to March 2019, he was an immigration judge in Buffalo and Batavia; from July 2016 to March 2018, an immigration judge in Orlando; from August 1997 to July 2016, an immigration judge in Buffalo; and from April 1990 to August 1997, an immigration judge in Miami. From 1975 to 1990, Mr. Montante was in private practice. During this time, in 1989, Mr. Montante was certified by the Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court as a circuit court mediator. From 1975 to 1976, he served as a special assistant attorney general and in 1976, was appointed as a chief municipal court judge in Broward County, Florida. From 1971 to 1975, he held various positions in the state attorney's office for the 17th judicial circuit of Florida, including prosecutor, chief assistant state attorney, and assistant state attorney. From 1975-1979, Mr. Montante was appointed by the Governor of the State of Florida to a four-year term as a member of the Judicial Nominating Commission, first as secretary and then as Chairman. From 1983-1985, he was Chairman of the Florida Bar Grievance Committee 17 (C) 1983. He is currently serving as a Member of the President's Commission on White House Fellowships (2018 to present) and likewise was a member of the President's Commission from 2001 to 2007, which is a part of the Executive Office of the President. Mr. Montante is a member of the District of Columbia Bar, Florida Bar, and New York State Bar.

### **Aaron R. Petty, Board Member**

Mr. Petty comes to the Board of Immigration Appeals from the Civil Division, Department of Justice where he has served since October 2009. He received a Bachelor of Arts in 2004 from Northwestern University, a Juris Doctor in 2007 from the University of Michigan Law School, a Master of Studies in 2012 from the University of Cambridge, and a Doctor of Philosophy in

2016 from Leiden University. From October 2015 to April 2020, he served as counsel for national security and senior counsel for national security, District Court Section, Office of Immigration Litigation (OIL), Civil Division, Department of Justice (DOJ). From October 2009 to October 2015, he served as a trial attorney and counsel for national security, Appellate Section, OIL, DOJ. From 2007 to 2009, he worked as a law clerk for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. He also serves as an officer in the U.S. Air Force Reserve. Mr. Petty is a member of the District of Columbia Bar and Illinois State Bar.

**Kevin W. Riley, Board Member**

Mr. Riley comes to the Board of Immigration Appeals after serving as an immigration judge since 2009, when he was initially appointed by former Attorney General Eric Holder. He received a Bachelor of Arts in 1992 from the University of Oregon, a Juris Doctor in 1995 from UCLA School of Law, and a Master of Business Administration in 2005 from California State University, Northridge. From November 2009 to May 2020, he served as an immigration judge in Los Angeles. From 2004 to November 2009, he served as deputy chief counsel, Office of Chief Counsel, Office of the Principal Legal Advisor, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security, in Los Angeles. From 2003 to 2004, he served as an assistant chief counsel in the same office. From 1995 to 2003, he served as an assistant district counsel with the former Immigration and Naturalization Service in Los Angeles. From May to August 1994, he worked as a law clerk at the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Nevada. Mr. Riley is a member of the State Bar of California.

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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.*