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NEWS RELEASE

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Arlington Immigration Judge Participates in Naturalization Ceremony

FAIRFAX, Va. – Immigration Judge Paul W. Schmidt from the Executive Office for Immigration Review, Arlington Immigration Court, delivered the keynote speech and administered the oath of allegiance to approximately 40 candidates during a naturalization ceremony in Fairfax, Va., on Jan. 20, 2010. The Washington District Office of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, hosted the ceremony.

Biographical Information

Paul W. Schmidt was appointed as an immigration judge in April 2003. He received a bachelor of arts degree in 1970 from Lawrence University and a juris doctorate in 1973 from the University of Wisconsin School of Law. While at the University of Wisconsin, he served as an editor of the Wisconsin Law Review. From February 1995 to April 2001, he served as chairman for the Board of Immigration Appeals, Executive Office for Immigration Review, in Falls Church, Va. From 1993 to 1995, he was the managing partner of the Washington, D.C., office of Fragomen, Del Rey & Bernsen, and from 1987 to 1992, he practiced business immigration law with the Washington, D.C., office of Jones, Day, Reavis and Pogue. From 1978 to 1987, Judge Schmidt was the deputy general counsel for the former Immigration and Naturalization Service, serving as acting general counsel from 1986-1987 and 1979-1981. Judge Schmidt has also served as an adjunct professor of law at George Mason University School of Law, authored numerous articles on immigration law, and has written extensively for the American Immigration Lawyers Association. Judge Schmidt is a member of Wisconsin and District of Columbia bars.

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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—who are charged by the Department of Homeland Security 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.