

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS

Immigration Law Training

October 5, 2016 Phoenix, Arizona

Panelist Bios

Honorable Michael Daly Hawkins, Circuit Judge was appointed to the Ninth Circuit on September 15, 1994, after serving as United States Attorney for the District of Arizona for 3 years, a military judge for the U.S. Marine Corps for 3 years, and 4 years as a Special Prosecutor for the Navajo Nation. He also had a long and distinguished career in private practice in Phoenix. He assumed senior status in 2010, but continues to actively serve the Court in many ways, including regular participation in each of the Court's different types of calendars.

Honorable Mary H. Murguia, Circuit Judge received her commission as a Ninth Circuit Judge on January 4, 2011, after serving as a District Court Judge in Arizona for 11 years. Judge Murguia received her B.A. from the University of Kansas and her J.D. from the University of Kansas School of Law. Before her appointment to the District Court in 2000, she served as an Assistant District Attorney and an Assistant U.S. Attorney before joining the Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, where she ultimately served as director.

John Blakeley is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and Notre Dame Law School, where he also earned an LL.M. in international human rights law, Mr. Blakeley joined the Office of Immigration Litigation at the Department of Justice in 2006. Prior to joining OIL, Mr. Blakeley spent more than seventeen years in government service, first with the U.S. Navy and later with the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. He also operated his own immigration practice in South Bend, Indiana. In 2008, he became a Senior Litigation Counsel, serving most of that time on the Appellate team, where he handled rehearing petitions in the courts of appeals and immigration cases in the Supreme Court. Mr. Blakeley has been serving as Assistant Director since September 2014, managing a team of fifteen attorneys litigating immigration cases in the district courts and the courts of appeals.

Holly Cooper has extensive litigation experience defending the rights of immigrants and is a nationally recognized expert on immigration detention issues and on the immigration consequences of criminal convictions. Ms. Cooper joined the UC Davis law faculty in 2006 and is currently the Associate Director of the Immigration Law Clinic where she focuses on advocating for the rights of detained immigrants. In 2011, she was the recipient of the King Hall Legal Foundation's Outstanding Alumni Award and the Carol Weiss King award from the National Lawyers Guild. Ms. Cooper also trains lawyers on a national level and regularly speaks at academic conferences on appellate and detention issues. In the international domain, Ms. Cooper has worked on human rights issues in Haiti and has volunteered on multiple human rights delegations to Haiti since the earthquake.

Susan Gelmis is the Chief Deputy Clerk for Operations at the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. She has been with the Court for 27 years, starting as a Motions Attorney in 1989. In 1992, she became the Supervising Attorney for the newly established Pro Se Unit, which she helped to define and create. In 1993, she

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS

Immigration Law Training

October 5, 2016 Phoenix, Arizona

Panelist Bios

worked with the Court and the federal bar to create the Circuit's Pro Bono Program. She then assumed the additional role of Supervising Attorney of the Motions Unit in 2000. In December 2015, Susan left the Staff Attorneys' Office to take on her new position in the Clerk's Office. Susan is a 1987 graduate of NYU Law School and originally a native of New York.

Chris Goelz has been a mediator for the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals for over twenty years. Before joining the court's mediation program, Chris worked in the court's motions unit. Before that, he was a litigator in a small San Francisco firm. Chris graduated from Yale Law School and has an undergraduate degree in engineering. He is an author of a Ninth Circuit practice guide published by the Rutter Group.

Kara Hartzler is currently an appellate attorney at the Federal Defenders of San Diego, Inc. Prior to joining the Federal Defenders, she served as the Legal Director and Criminal Immigration Consultant at the Florence Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project in Arizona, where she specialized in the immigration consequences of criminal convictions. She has authored numerous books, articles, and resources for defense attorneys and served as an adjunct professor at the University of Arizona College of Law. She has also received the David Carliner Public Interest Award and the Robert J. Hooker Award for service to the defender community.

Jennifer J. Keeney, Senior Litigation Counsel, joined the Department of Justice's Office of Immigration Litigation through the Honors Program in 2003. She received her Bachelor of Arts from Northern Arizona University in 1995 and received her law degree from the University of Maryland School of Law in 2003. While at OIL, Ms. Keeney has handled a variety of significant criminal immigration issues at the rehearing stage and before the Supreme Court, including Kawashima v. Mukasey, 530 F.3d 111 (9th Cir. 2008) and Nijhawan v. Holder, 129 S. Ct. 2294 (2009). Ms. Keeney currently serves as the office's subject matter expert for criminal immigration issues, including issues raised by Descamps v. United States, 133 S. Ct. 2276 (2013) and, in that capacity, is responsible for formulating and coordinating OIL's litigating positions, and assisting OIL attorneys with criminal immigration matters. Ms. Keeney has presented on criminal and other immigration related issues at the Executive Office of Immigration Review's Legal Training Program, the Department of Homeland Security Annual Conferences, the Federal Bar Association Immigration Law Seminar, OIL's Annual Immigration Law Seminar, the National Advocacy Center's Annual Immigration Litigation Conference, and OIL's Criminal Immigration Training.

Allison Taylor has been a staff attorney in the Motions Unit of the Ninth Circuit since 2006. She is currently the lead attorney in Motions, and is responsible for handling a wide variety of matters as well as training new staff. Prior to joining the Ninth Circuit, she was a trial attorney for the Department of Homeland Security working primarily in the San Francisco immigration court.

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS

Immigration Law Training

October 5, 2016 Phoenix, Arizona

Panelist Bios

Stacy Tolchin established the Law Offices of Stacy Tolchin in 2010 and practices exclusively in immigration law. Ms. Tolchin primarily litigates before the Courts of Appeals and U.S. District Courts, as well as the Board of Immigration Appeals and the immigration courts, and speaks regularly at conferences regarding federal court immigration litigation. Ms. Tolchin is the recipient of the American Immigration Lawyers Association's 2009 Jack Wasserman Award for Excellence in Immigration Litigation, the 2009 American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California Equal Justice Advocacy Award, the 2008 recipient of the National Immigration Law Center Annual Award, a 2007 Recipient of the "Unsung Hero" Award for the National Lawyers Guild of the Bay Area, and was recognized in 2003 by the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee of San Francisco. She is a member of the Board of Directors of the National Immigration Project for the National Lawyers Guild, a member of the Advisory Committee of the Legal Action Center of the American Immigration Council, a member of the Advisory Committee of the Litigation Section of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, and a member of the National Lawyers Guild. Prior to establishing her practice, Ms. Tolchin was an attorney with Van Der Hout, Brigagliano & Nightingale, LLP from 2001 through 2010. Ms. Tolchin is a graduate of University of California at Los Angeles (JD).

Jonathan Westen has been a Staff Attorney in the Research Unit of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals since 2004. He currently serves as the legal adviser of the Immigration-Asylum group, and for the past nine years Mr. Westen has trained new staff attorneys on immigration issues. Prior to joining the Ninth Circuit, Mr. Westen clerked for U.S. District Court Judge Bruce D. Black in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and subsequently served as a dedicated clerk to Chief U.S. District Court Judge James A. Parker for the espionage trial of Wen Ho Lee. Mr. Westen also spent several years as an associate at Heller Ehrman.