

PRESENTERS' BIOS

Immigration Cases in the Ninth Circuit: Court Process and Hot Topics

The Hon. Gabriel P. Sanchez:

The Honorable Gabriel P. Sanchez is a Circuit Judge for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Judge Sanchez was nominated by President Joseph R. Biden on September 20, 2021, and was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on January 12, 2022. He serves on the California State-Federal Judicial Council, the Education Committee, and the Criminal Law Committee for the Ninth Circuit.

Judge Sanchez was previously appointed by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. to the California Court of Appeal, First Appellate District in 2018 as an Associate Justice in Division One. From 2012 to 2018, Judge Sanchez was a senior advisor to Governor Brown on corrections and criminal justice matters. He managed state and federal prisoner class actions and other significant litigation and appeals, supervising the work of attorneys from the Office of the Attorney General and outside counsel. He advised the Brown administration on criminal justice reform policy and legislation, executive appointments, and parole and clemency decisions, and was a principal author of the landmark Public Safety and Rehabilitation Act of 2016 (Proposition 57) and its enabling regulations. Prior to the Governor's Office, Judge Sanchez served as a Deputy Attorney General in the Office of the Attorney General in San Francisco.

Judge Sanchez began his legal career at Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP where he litigated a wide range of civil matters at the trial and appellate levels. Active in his pro bono practice, the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California presented him with the Social Justice Award in 2010 for his work on *Bautista v. State of California*, a lawsuit to improve and enforce heat illness protection safety regulations on behalf of farm workers. As a result of these efforts, California adopted workplace protections that have become a national standard.

Born in Los Angeles, Judge Sanchez received his bachelor's degree from Yale College in 1998, his master's degree in European Studies from the University of Cambridge in 2000, and his Juris Doctor degree from Yale Law School in 2005. Judge Sanchez was a Fulbright Scholar in Buenos Aires, Argentina in 1999, where

he surveyed and wrote on presidential electoral campaign politics. Following law school, he served as a law clerk to the Honorable Richard A. Paez of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Judge Sanchez serves on the board of directors of the Pacific Council on International Policy.

Lisa Fitzgerald:

Lisa has worked for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit since 1997. As the Chief Staff Attorney, she manages the 70+ attorneys and 10+ support staff who make up the court's central legal staff. Since January 2021, Lisa has also served as the court's Appellate Commissioner, ruling on procedural matters like appointment of counsel, sealing of documents, and forma pauperis status. Lisa has served on several national committees within the judiciary, including four years on the Information Technology Advisory Council. Before coming to the Ninth Circuit, Lisa was a law clerk to Judge Stanley A. Weigel in the Northern District of California, after receiving her J.D from Boalt Hall, U.C. Berkeley School of Law.

Cheri Ho:

Cheri Ho is a supervisory staff attorney on the immigration team in the Ninth Circuit's Office of Staff Attorneys. Before returning to the Ninth Circuit in 2021, she spent 15 years working with US Citizenship and Immigration Services in a variety of roles, including serving as a Deputy Chief of the Refugee & Asylum Law Division in the Office of the Chief Counsel, and as District Director for the Europe, Middle East and Africa District based in Rome, Italy. Cheri also held various positions with the USCIS Asylum Division and worked as a trial attorney with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. She has a degree in International Relations from the University of California, at Davis, and is a graduate of Yale Law School.

Judah Lakin:

Judah is a partner at Lakin & Wille LLP, where he focuses on removal defense, appeals, federal court litigation, detention issues, family-based immigration, and the immigration consequences of criminal convictions. In addition to his private practice, Judah is a lecturer at U. C. Berkeley School of Law, where he supervises law students representing noncitizens before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals through Berkeley Law's Ninth Circuit Practicum. Judah currently serves as an

Appellate Lawyer Representative for the Ninth Circuit. Prior to starting Lakin & Wille LLP, Judah was an associate at Van Der Hout LLP. Prior to private practice, Judah clerked for the Honorable Richard A. Paez on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and before that, worked at Dolores Street Community Services' Deportation Defense and Legal Advocacy Program. Judah graduated *magna cum laude* and *Phi Beta Kappa* from Brown University, received an M.Ed. in Teaching English as a Second Language (*with honors*) from Rhode Island College, and received his J.D. from Berkeley Law.