

INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY | 24-026

Finding of Misconduct by an Immigration Judge in the Executive Office for Immigration Review for Making Inappropriate Comments During Immigration Court Proceedings

The Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of the Inspector General (OIG) initiated an investigation after receiving information from the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR), alleging that an Immigration Judge may have made inappropriate comments during Immigration Court proceedings.

The OIG investigation substantiated the allegation that the Immigration Judge made inappropriate comments about Immigration Court respondents during court proceedings, including inappropriate comments about one respondent's mental state during a mental competency hearing and another respondent's sexual orientation. The OIG found that the Immigration Judge's conduct violated the Department's zero tolerance policy on harassment and EOIR's ethical rules applicable to Immigration Judges.

The OIG has completed its investigation and provided its report to EOIR and the Department's Professional Misconduct Review Unit for appropriate action.

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Unless otherwise noted, the OIG applies the preponderance of the evidence standard in determining whether DOJ personnel have committed misconduct.