



WHITE HOUSE

Trump administration fires new immigration judges

The country's immigration courts have a seven-figure case backlog.



It's unclear if the judges will be replaced, but the president's team is looking to cut through the pileup — a major hurdle in the administration's immigration agenda. | Wilfredo Lee/AP

By **MYAH WARD**

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The Trump administration has fired a slew of immigration judges as part of the sweeping moves to cut thousands of government workers.

The Friday terminations affected five assistant chief immigration judges, as well as the entire December class of new judges who have yet to be sworn in, said a person familiar with the firings, granted anonymity to discuss private discussions. [The Associated Press reported Saturday](#) that it affected 20 judges in total across the Justice Department's Executive Office for Immigration Review, which runs the courts and oversees 700 judges.

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The firings come as the immigration courts have a 3.7 million case backlog, and President Donald Trump looks to fulfill his promise of deporting millions of undocumented immigrants. It's unclear if the judges will be replaced, but the president's team is looking to cut through the pileup — a major hurdle in the administration's immigration agenda.

The EOIR did not immediately respond to POLITICO's request for comment.

Both Republicans and Democrats support more judges and support staff, and there was an effort during the first Trump administration to pressure judges to speed up the process.

Kerry E. Doyle, one of the judges who was dismissed on Friday, announced her firing in a [LinkedIn post](#). She said EOIR Acting Director Sirce Owen sent an email issuing her termination.

“This firing occurred despite the fact that the Immigration Court currently has in the neighborhood of 3.5 MILLION pending cases and DOJ is asking Congress for more money to hire more people at EOIR! (Hint: don’t fire the people you already have!),” Doyle, who previously served in senior roles in the Biden administration, said in the post.

The latest cuts follow the termination of four top EOIR officials on Trump’s first day in office: chief immigration judge, Sheila McNulty; the acting director of the Executive Office of Immigration Review, Mary Cheng; the office’s general counsel, Jill Anderson; and its head of policy, Lauren Alder Reid. They were also fired without warning.

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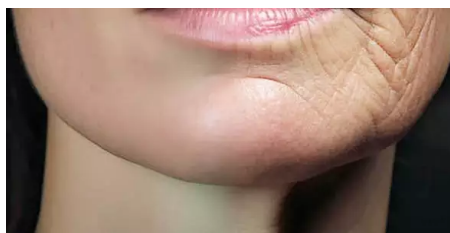
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