

**UNITED STATES SENATE
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY**

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR NON-JUDICIAL NOMINEES

PUBLIC

1. **Name:** State full name (include any former names used).

Joseph Benjamin Edlow

2. **Position:** State the position for which you have been nominated.

Director, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services

3. **Address:** List current office address. If city and state of residence differs from your place of employment, please list the city and state where you currently reside.

5900 Capital Gateway Drive, Camp Springs, Maryland

Residence is in Potomac, Maryland

4. **Birthplace:** State date and place of birth.

May 31, 1981. Baltimore, Maryland

5. **Education:** List in reverse chronological order each college, law school, or any other institution of higher education attended and indicate for each the dates of attendance, whether a degree was received, and the date each degree was received.

Case Western Reserve University School of Law
Juris Doctor, May 2006

Brandeis University
Bachelor of Arts, May 2003

6. **Employment Record:** List in reverse chronological order all governmental agencies, business or professional corporations, companies, firms, or other enterprises, partnerships, institutions or organizations, non-profit or otherwise, with which you have been affiliated as an officer, director, partner, proprietor, or employee since graduation from college, whether or not you received payment for your services. Include the name and address of the employer and job title or description.

Senior Advisor
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
5900 Capital Gateway Drive, Camp Springs, MD 20588
January 20, 2025 – Present

Visiting Fellow
Center for Renewing America
November 2024 – January 2025

Volunteer
DHS Landing Team
Trump-Vance Transition Team
November 2024 – January 20, 2025

Member, Board of Directors
National Immigration Center for Enforcement
June 2023 – January 20, 2025

Visiting Fellow & Contributor
The Heritage Foundation
214 Massachusetts Avenue, NE, Washington, DC 20002
February 2022 – October 2024

General Counsel
Montgomery County Republican Central Committee
15833 Crabbs Branch Way, Rockville, MD 20855
January 2022 – January 20, 2025

Founder/Managing Member
The Law Offices of Joseph Edlow LLC
1201 Seven Locks Road, Suite 360, Rockville, MD 20854 (mailing address)
May 2021 – January 20, 2025

Founder/Managing Member
The Edlow Group LLC
10221 River Road, #60613, Potomac, MD 20859 (mailing address)
February 2021 – January 20, 2025

Deputy Director for Policy
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
5900 Capital Gateway Drive, Camp Springs, MD 20588
February 2020 – January 2021

Chief Counsel
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
5900 Capital Gateway Drive, Camp Springs, MD 20588
(previously 20 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20529)
July 2019 – February 2020

Detailee
Executive Office of the President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, DC
April 2019 – July 2019

Deputy Assistant Attorney General
Office of Legal Policy
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20530
June 2018 – July 2019

Counsel (Majority)
Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security
House Judiciary Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
2138 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515
February 2017 – June 2018

Professional Volunteer
Trump Transition Team, Immigration Policy
December 2016 – January 2017

Counsel
Office of Representative Raul L. Labrador (ID-1)

U.S. House of Representatives
1529 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515
May 2015 – June 2017

Assistant Chief Counsel
Baltimore Office of the Chief Counsel
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Fallon Federal Building, 31 Hopkins Plaza, Baltimore, MD 21201
November 2008 – May 2015

Associate Attorney
Law Offices of Scott L. Rolle
3 W. Church Street, Frederick, MD 21701
January 2007 – November 2008

Political Director
Scott Rolle for Maryland Attorney General
August 2006 – November 2006

Legal Intern
Governor's Legal Office
Office of Governor Robert Ehrlich
Shaw House, Annapolis, MD 21401
June 2005 – August 2005

Legal Extern
Chambers of the Hon. Susan K. Gauvey (D. Md)
Garmatz Federal Courthouse, 101 W. Lombard Street, Baltimore, MD 21201
June 2004 – August 2004

Assistant
Middlesex County Bar Association
40 Thorndike Street, Cambridge, MA 02141
(now 200 Tradecenter Dr, #329, Woburn, MA 01801)
June 2003 – August 2003

7. **Military Service and Draft Status:** Identify any service in the U.S. Military, including dates of service, branch of service, rank or rate, serial number (if different

from social security number) and type of discharge received, and whether you have registered for selective service.

I have never served in the U.S. Military.

I registered for selective service on July 14, 1999.

8. **Honors and Awards:** List any scholarships, fellowships, honorary degrees, academic or professional honors, honorary society memberships, military awards, and any other special recognition for outstanding service or achievement.

DHS Outstanding Service Medal (December 2020)

9. **Bar Associations:** List all bar associations or legal or judicial-related committees, selection panels or conferences of which you are or have been a member, and give the titles and dates of any offices which you have held in such groups.

New Jersey Bar Association – never held any office.

10. **Bar and Court Admission:**

- a. List the date(s) you were admitted to the bar of any state and any lapses in membership. Please explain the reason for any lapse in membership.

Supreme Court of Maryland (formerly the Court of Appeals of Maryland)
December 2006

Supreme Court of New Jersey
June 2014

Court of Appeals of New York
June 2014

- b. List all courts in which you have been admitted to practice, including dates of admission and any lapses in membership. Please explain the reason for any lapse in membership. Give the same information for administrative bodies that require special admission to practice.

United States Supreme Court
April 2023

United States Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit
December 2018

United States Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit
October 2022

United States Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit
March 2019

United States District Court for the District of Maryland
May 2011 (lapse from approximately 2016-2021 as I never practiced before the court. I re-registered upon returning to the private sector in 2021 and have maintained admission since.)

United States District Court for the District of Columbia
February 2022

United States District Court for the District of New Jersey
June 2014

United States District Court for the District of Nebraska
January 2022

11. **Memberships:**

- a. List all professional, business, fraternal, scholarly, civic, charitable, or other organizations, other than those listed in response to Questions 9 or 10 to which you belong, or to which you have belonged, since graduation from law school. Provide dates of membership or participation, and indicate any office you held. Include clubs, working groups, advisory or editorial boards, panels, committees, conferences, or publications.

Congregation Har Shalom
Potomac, Maryland

- Vice President, At Large, May 2021 – April 2025
- Board Member, May 2019 – April 2020

- b. Indicate whether any of these organizations listed in response to 11 (a) above currently discriminate or formerly discriminated on the basis of race, sex, religion or national origin either through formal membership requirements or the practical implementation of membership policies. If so, describe any action you have taken to change these policies and practices.

I have never been associated with any organization that discriminates nor

formerly discriminated on the basis of race, sex, religion, or national origin to my knowledge.

12. Published Writings and Public Statements:

- a. List the titles, publishers, and dates of books, articles, reports, letters to the editor, editorial pieces, or other published material you have written or edited, including material published only on the Internet. Supply four (4) copies of all published material to the Committee.

See Appendix.

- b. Supply four (4) copies of any reports, memoranda or policy statements you prepared or contributed in the preparation of on behalf of any bar association, committee, conference, or organization of which you were or are a member. If you do not have a copy of a report, memorandum or policy statement, give the name and address of the organization that issued it, the date of the document, and a summary of its subject matter.

See Appendix.

- c. Supply four (4) copies of any testimony, official statements or other communications relating, in whole or in part, to matters of public policy or legal interpretation, that you have issued or provided or that others presented on your behalf to public bodies or public officials.

See Appendix.

- d. Supply four (4) copies, transcripts or recordings of all speeches or talks delivered by you, including commencement speeches, remarks, lectures, panel discussions, conferences, political speeches, and question-and-answer sessions. Include the date and place where they were delivered, and readily available press reports about the speech or talk. If you do not have a copy of the speech or a transcript or recording of your remarks, give the name and address of the group before whom the speech was given, the date of the speech, and a summary of its subject matter. If you did not speak from a prepared text, furnish a copy of any outline or notes from which you spoke.

See Appendix.

- e. List all interviews you have given to newspapers, magazines or other publications, or radio or television stations, providing the dates of these interviews and four (4) copies of the clips or transcripts of these interviews where they are available to you.

See Appendix.

- f. If applicable, list all published judicial opinions that you have written, including concurrences and dissents. Supply the citations for all published judicial opinions to the Committee.

None.

13. Public Office, Political Activities and Affiliations:

- a. List chronologically any public offices you have held, other than judicial offices, including the terms of service and whether such positions were elected or appointed. If appointed, please include the name of the individual who appointed you. Also, state chronologically any unsuccessful candidacies you have had for elective office or unsuccessful nominations for appointed office.

I have never held public office nor sought such a position. In 2008, I was an unsuccessful candidate in Frederick County, Maryland, for an Alternate Delegate slot for the Republic National Convention.

- b. List all memberships and offices held in and services rendered, whether compensated or not, to any political party or election committee. If you have ever held a position or played a role in a political campaign, identify the particulars of the campaign, including the candidate, dates of the campaign, your title and responsibilities.

In 2006, I served as the political director on Scott Rolle's unsuccessful campaign for Attorney General of Maryland. In this role, I coordinated Mr. Rolle's meetings at campaign stops and represented Mr. Rolle and his political positions at various events. I served in this capacity from August 2006 until Election Day in November 2006.

For a few months in 2007, I was involved in a Northwest Baltimore County Republican Club. The club met once a month. I eventually left as I was no longer living in Baltimore County. I am unaware as to whether this club is still functioning today.

In January 2022, I was appointed to serve as General Counsel for the Montgomery County, Maryland, Republican Central Committee. In this role, I advised committee members on legal issues including election matters as well as campaign finance law. I assisted in the drafting of various bylaw amendments and explained the legal ramifications of the amendments and various other actions to the members of the central committee. I was most involved in 2022, stepping back in 2023 and 2024 when I engaged with the

committee on only a few items. I resigned from the position prior to January 20, 2025, as I was about to begin service in the Trump Administration.

14. **Legal Career:** Answer each part separately.

a. Describe chronologically your law practice and legal experience after graduation from law school including:

i. whether you served as clerk to a judge, and if so, the name of the judge, the court and the dates of the period you were a clerk;

I have never served as a judicial clerk.

ii. whether you practiced alone, and if so, the addresses and dates;

I owned and operated a sole practice from May 2021 until January 20, 2025. The mailing address of the practice was 1201 Seven Locks Road, Rockville, Maryland 20854.

iii. the dates, names and addresses of law firms or offices, companies or governmental agencies with which you have been affiliated, and the nature of your affiliation with each.

Associate Attorney
Law Offices of Scott L. Rolle
January 2007 – November 2008

I served as the sole associate attorney in a two-person law firm. I represented clients in both civil and criminal matters before Maryland District and Circuit Courts.

Assistant Chief Counsel
Baltimore Office of the Chief Counsel
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
November 2008 – May 2015

I represented the Department of Homeland Security in removal/deportation proceedings before the Immigration Court located in Baltimore, Maryland. I also provided legal counsel to the Baltimore offices of Homeland Security Investigations and Enforcement and Removal Operations.

Counsel
Office of Representative Raul R. Labrador (ID-1)
U.S. House of Representatives
May 2015 – June 2017

I served as legal counsel to a member of Congress primarily on immigration policy matters. Drafted legislation and staffed the Congressman on all matters handled before the House Judiciary Committee.

Counsel (Majority)
Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security
House Judiciary Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
February 2017 – June 2018

Served as committee counsel handling the immigration enforcement portfolio and provided counsel to Chairman Bob Goodlatte, as well as other members of the committee.

Deputy Assistant Attorney General
Office of Legal Policy
U.S. Department of Justice
June 2018 – July 2019

Served as the Department of Justice's primary point of contact for the development and execution of the Department's immigration-related regulatory agenda. Drafted briefs on immigration appellate matters before the 2nd and 9th Circuit Courts of Appeal.

Chief Counsel
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
July 2019 – February 2020

Served as chief legal officer for the agency overseeing a staff of over 325 attorneys and support staff. Provided legal counsel to the Acting Director and to senior leadership of the agency.

Founder/Managing Member
The Law Offices of Joseph Edlow LLC

May 2021 – January 20, 2025

Represented private individuals and companies on administrative immigration matters including obtaining and renewing immigration benefits. Also represented clients in FOIA litigation before the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

- iv. Whether you served as a mediator or arbitrator in alternative dispute resolution proceedings and, if so, a description of the 10 most significant matters with which you were involved in that capacity.

I have never served as a mediator or arbitrator.

- v. Whether you have held any judicial office, including positions as an administrative law judge, on any U.S. federal, state, tribal, or local court and if so, please provide the name of the court, the jurisdiction of that court, whether the position was appointed or elected, and the dates of your service.

I have never held any judicial office.

b. Describe:

- i. the general character of your law practice and indicate by date when its character has changed over the years.

My legal career began in a two-person private practice in Frederick, Maryland, where I served as the sole associate attorney. During the first two years of my practice, I focused on criminal litigation, including serious traffic offenses, drug matters, and assaults. I also handled some civil litigation including small contract claims and family law matters. The majority of my cases were litigated before the District Courts of Maryland and Circuit Court of Frederick County, Maryland.

After joining the ICE Office of the Principal Legal Advisor in November 2008, my practice entirely shifted to immigration law. As a trial attorney, I spent the next six and a half years litigating removal matters before the immigration court located in Baltimore, Maryland. During that time, I handled every type of immigration case within the jurisdiction of the immigration courts. I also specialized in gang matters (and was ultimately appointed the designated point of contact for all gang cases in the district), as well as national security matters. Apart from my litigation responsibilities, I routinely advised local agents with Homeland Security Investigations and officers with Enforcement and Removal Operations on criminal procedure and substantive areas of

immigration law. In addition, I was one of the trial attorneys assigned to handle HSI worksite enforcement matters, where I conducted reviews for legal sufficiency.

In May 2015, my career took a distinctive turn to policy. I was hired as counsel to Rep. Raul Labrador where I initially focused on immigration legislation and ultimately on his entire Judiciary Committee portfolio. I was subsequently hired by the House Judiciary Committee where I was responsible for all legislative and policy matters related to immigration enforcement and criminal immigration law.

Joining the Trump Administration in 2018, in the Office of Legal Policy within the Department of Justice, legislative policy knowledge served me well as I transitioned into a regulatory policy role. During this period of time, I was responsible for advancing the Department's regulatory agenda related to immigration.

In 2019, I was hired as the Chief Counsel at U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services where I could combine all of my skillset as I oversaw a team of over 325 attorneys and staff. While never litigating personally in this role, I oversaw litigation and regulatory strategy and assisted the Acting Director in all matters related to immigration policy.

After my time managing the day-to-day operations of USCIS as the Deputy Director for Policy, where I was not in a legal role, I returned to the private sector and, along with a consulting shop, opened a small boutique law firm. I spent the last several years assisting individuals and companies in meeting their immigration-related goals. This was purely administrative law. I did not take any criminal immigration matters nor did I take any matters before the immigration courts.

From a litigation perspective, I did file several FOIA cases against various executive departments and agencies and filed an amicus brief before the U.S. Supreme Court on behalf of 31 Members of the House of Representatives. (Appendix 14(e))

- ii. Your typical clients and the areas at each period of your legal career, if any, in which you have specialized.

As described above, as the nature of my practice changed, so too did my client base. While in private practice in 2007 and 2008, my clients consisted of Maryland residents charged with a crime and those either prosecuting or defending a family law matter (divorce, child custody, etc.) I also had several business clients who were trying to enforce payment on completed contracts.

From November 2008 until May 2015, my sole client was the Department of Homeland Security.

During my time on Capitol Hill, I served at the pleasure of my two employers, Rep. Raul Labrador and Chairman Bob Goodlatte, and did not have clients in the traditional sense. The same is true with my return to the executive branch of the federal government in June 2018, where I served at the pleasure of the President and reported to the Attorney General and then the Secretary of Homeland Security.

Since leaving the government in 2021, my client base has been primarily individuals and companies seeking immigration expertise. I also represented various nonprofits in several FOIA matters.

- c. Describe the percentage of your practice that has been in litigation and whether you appeared in court frequently, occasionally, or not at all. If the frequency of your appearances in court varied, describe such variance, providing dates.

- i. Indicate the percentage of your practice in:

January 2007 - November 2008

1. federal courts:
2. state courts of record: 100% (Maryland Courts)
3. other courts:
4. administrative agencies:

November 2008 – May 2015

1. federal courts: 100% (U.S. Immigration Court)
2. state courts of record:
3. other courts:
4. administrative agencies:

May 2015 – January 2021

1. federal courts: 100% (filed two appeals and oversaw litigation)
2. state courts of record:
3. other courts:
4. administrative agencies:

January 2021 – January 2025

1. federal courts: 40% (FOIA cases)
2. state courts of record:
3. other courts:
4. administrative agencies: 60% (USCIS)

- ii. Indicate the percentage of your practice in:

January 2007 – November 2008

1. civil proceedings: 50%
2. criminal proceedings: 50%

Since November 2008: 100% civil proceedings

- d. State the number of cases in courts of record, including cases before administrative law judges, you tried to verdict, judgment or final decision (rather than settled), indicating whether you were sole counsel, chief counsel, or associate counsel.

In 2007 and 2008, I do not recall being the attorney of record in any criminal or civil litigation (both jury and non-jury). While I was substantially involved in numerous cases, I was always in the record as associate counsel with the founder of the law firm.

While a trial attorney with ICE OPLA, I was the attorney of record on thousands of cases before the U.S. Immigration Courts.

All FOIA cases that I filed in the past several years remain ongoing and were transferred to other attorneys on or about January 20, 2025.

- i. What percentage of these trials were:

- | | |
|--------------|------|
| 1. jury: | % |
| 2. non-jury: | 100% |

- e. Describe your practice, if any, before the Supreme Court of the United States. Supply four (4) copies of any briefs, amicus or otherwise, and, if applicable, any oral argument transcripts before the Supreme Court in connection with your practice.

My sole practice before the Supreme Court of the United States was counsel of record for 31 Members of the U.S. House of Representatives as *Amici Curiae* in Support of Petitioner in the matter of Washington Alliance of Technology Workers v. Department of Homeland Security, *et. al.* (No. 22-1071). The filed brief is attached in Appendix 14(e).

15. **Litigation:** Describe the ten (10) most significant litigated matters which you personally handled, whether or not you were the attorney of record. Give the citations, if the cases were reported, and the docket number and date if unreported. Give a capsule summary of the substance of each case. Identify the party or parties

whom you represented; describe in detail the nature of your participation in the litigation and the final disposition of the case. Also state as to each case:

- a. the date of representation;
- b. the name of the court and the name of the judge or judges before whom the case was litigated; and
- c. the individual name, addresses, and telephone numbers of co-counsel and of principal counsel for each of the other parties.

None of the matters with which I was personally involved would rise to the level of significant with the exception of the amicus brief filed before the Supreme Court as noted above. While I served as Chief Counsel at USCIS, I oversaw litigation activities but was not personally involved, nor do I recall the cases with any degree of specificity.

16. **Legal Activities:** Describe the most significant legal activities you have pursued including significant litigation which did not progress to trial or legal matters that did not involve litigation. Describe fully the nature of your participation in these activities. List any client(s) or organization(s) for whom you performed lobbying activities and describe the lobbying activities you performed on behalf of such client(s) or organizations(s). (Note: As to any facts requested in this question, please omit any information protected by the attorney-client privilege.)

Apart from the activities discussed above, as part of my work under the Edlow Group LLC consulting firm, I represented NumbersUSA in its effort to educate states about the benefits of requiring mandatory E-Verify through legislative means. During this time, I testified before both the Ohio House and Senate, and met with legislators from all over the country at various events. To be clear, I was not a lobbyist in this regard but instead worked with lobbyists hired in various states to provide education and technical assistance on these matters.

During this period, I drafted an E-Verify bill for the American Legislators Exchange Council (ALEC) which was approved as model legislation. Additionally, through my work with the Heritage Foundation, I routinely assisted Heritage Action to speak with state legislators and other elected officials on what actions states could take on immigration matters.

17. **Teaching:** What courses have you taught? For each course, state the title, the institution at which you taught the course, the years in which you taught the course, and describe briefly the subject matter of the course and the major topics taught. If you have a syllabus of each course, provide four (4) copies to the committee.

I have never taught any classes. I did, on several occasions, speak in an immigration

class at the University of Baltimore and University of Maryland Schools of Law on the topic of worksite enforcement. This was done as a favor to the professor of the class and was not compensated nor was there any follow-up after the single lecture per semester. I believe I did this about four times over the course of several years (prior to 2015).

18. **Deferred Income/ Future Benefits:** List the sources, amounts and dates of all anticipated receipts from deferred income arrangements, stock, options, uncompleted contracts and other future benefits which you expect to derive from previous business relationships, professional services, firm memberships, former employers, clients or customers. Describe the arrangements you have made to be compensated in the future for any financial or business interest.

After separating from government service in 2021, I transferred my Thrift Savings Plan into an IRA. I have no other retirement plans other than the new TSP which commenced on January 20, 2025. No employer contributions have been made to any retirement plans.

Separately, I am still awaiting payment from two clients based on work that was completed in 2024. These payments are not contingent on any promise of future work nor on any continued attorney-client relationship.

19. **Outside Commitments During Service:** Do you have any plans, commitments, or agreements to pursue outside employment, with or without compensation, during your service? If so, explain.

I officially terminated all employment positions and ended representation on all active cases prior to beginning government service on January 20, 2025, and have no plans to pursue outside employment.

20. **Sources of Income:** List sources and amounts of all income received during the calendar year preceding your nomination and for the current calendar year, including all salaries, fees, dividends, interest, gifts, rents, royalties, licensing fees, honoraria, and other items exceeding \$500 or more (if you prefer to do so, copies of the financial disclosure report, required by the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, may be substituted here).

Please see my OGE 278 Public Financial Disclosure Report.

21. **Statement of Net Worth:** Please complete the attached financial net worth statement in detail (add schedules as called for).

Please see attached Statement of Net Worth

22. **Potential Conflicts of Interest:**

a. Identify the family members or other persons, parties, affiliations, pending and

categories of litigation, financial arrangements or other factors that are likely to present potential conflicts-of-interest when you first assume the position to which you have been nominated. Explain how you would address any such conflict if it were to arise.

In connection with the nomination process, I have consulted with the Office of Government Ethics, the Department of Homeland Security's Designated Ethics Official, and the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' Office of the Chief Counsel's ethics staff to identify any potential conflicts of interest. Any potential conflicts of interest will be resolved, and I am not aware of any other potential conflicts of interest.

- b. Explain how you will resolve any potential conflict of interest, including the procedure you will follow in determining these areas of concern.

Please see response above.

23. **Pro Bono Work:** An ethical consideration under Canon 2 of the American Bar Association's Code of Professional Responsibility calls for "every lawyer, regardless of professional prominence or professional work load, to find some time to participate in serving the disadvantaged." Describe what you have done to fulfill these responsibilities, listing specific instances and the amount of time devoted to each. If you are not an attorney, please use this opportunity to report significant charitable and volunteer work you may have done.

The majority of my career has been dedicated to public service as I have worked in the federal government in numerous legal and policy roles. During my time in the private sector, especially in the past 4 years, I have taken on several pro bono immigration matters to assist clients without the ability to pay. I have also assisted several religious institutions in pro bono immigration matters.