



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF THE CLERK
1717 PACIFIC AVE., ROOM 3100
TACOMA, WASHINGTON 98402
(253) 882-3800

RAVI SUBRAMANIAN
District Court Executive
Clerk of Court

ERIC SMITS
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PATRICK SHERWOOD
Deputy in Charge

October 20, 2021

THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON WELCOMES DISTRICT JUDGE DAVID G. ESTUDILLO

On October 15, 2021, before his family, friends, and judges, Judge Estudillo was sworn in by Chief Judge Martinez to be a United States District Judge for the Western District of Washington, seated in Tacoma. Judge Estudillo's appointment fills a judgeship vacant since February 28, 2019, when District Judge Ronald B. Leighton assumed senior status.

Judge Estudillo was born in Sunnyside, Washington, and is the ninth child of immigrants from Mexico. His parents arrived in the United States via the Bracero Program. Being fluent in Spanish, Judge Estudillo often provided pro bono representation as an attorney to Spanish-speaking immigrants in removal proceedings before the Seattle and Tacoma Immigration Court. He assisted with the filing and presenting of claims for asylum, withholding of removal, Convention Against Torture Act, and cancellation of removal. He also volunteered at Citizenship Day Clinics, where he assisted immigrants in preparing applications for naturalization and frequently presented information on immigration law at community forums.

Judge Estudillo received his Juris Doctor from the University of Washington School of Law in 1999 and his Bachelor of Arts from the University of Washington in 1996. He began his legal career at the Wenatchee law firm of Jeffers, Danielson, Sonn & Aylward, P.S. From 2002 to 2005, Judge Estudillo also practiced at the Seattle law firm of Scheer and Zehnder LLP, where he focused on complex, multiparty civil litigation. From 2005 to 2015, Judge Estudillo owned and operated Estudillo Law Firm, PLLC, where he focused on immigration law and general civil litigation. He was appointed to the Superior Court by Washington State Governor Jay Inslee in 2015 and subsequently elected to his position by the voters of Grant County in 2016 and 2020. Judge Estudillo has served as the presiding judge of the Grant County Superior Court in Ephrata, Washington.

At the time of his Senate confirmation vote on September 14, 2021, Judge Estudillo was serving as the president of the Washington State Superior Court Judges' Association. He also was an active member of the Association's Ethics Committee and Legislative Committee and was chair of its Rural Courts Committee. In addition, Judge Estudillo was a member of the Washington State Board for Judicial Administration and its Court Recovery Task Force.

A formal investiture ceremony will be scheduled at a future date.