PRIYA NATARAJAN

IMMIGRATION JUDGE

CONTACT

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Houston, TX

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SKILLS

- Immigration and Nationality Act
- Removal Proceedings
- Asylum Law
- Credibility Determinations
- Bond Hearings
- Detained Docket
- Federal Regulations
- Legal Research
- Westlaw
- Cross-Cultural Communication

EDUCATION

Juris Doctor (J.D.)

05/2011

University of Houston Law Center

Houston, TX

Law

CERTIFICATES

Admission to the State Bar of Texas

11/2011

Supreme Court of Texas

SUMMARY

Immigration judge since 2019 on a mixed detained and non-detained docket of about 2,800 cases, after eight years as government counsel in removal proceedings. Decides asylum, withholding and cancellation claims under the Immigration and Nationality Act and writes decisions with clear credibility determinations.

EXPERIENCE

Immigration Judge 06/2019 - Present

U.S. Department of Justice, Executive Office for Immigration Review — Houston, TX

Houston immigration court; detained and non-detained dockets.

- Hear removal proceedings on a pending docket of about **2,800** cases, completing 600+ cases a year.
- Decide asylum, withholding and Convention Against Torture claims, issuing oral and written decisions with credibility determinations.
- Conduct bond hearings for detained respondents, usually within 14 days of the bond request.
- Run interpreter-assisted hearings in 30+ languages, including video hearings for remote detention centers.

Assistant Chief Counsel 09/2011 - 05/2019

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Office of the Principal Legal Advisor — Houston, TX

Represented the government before the immigration court.

- Litigated **3,000+** removal proceedings, including two years on the detained docket.
- Cross-examined applicants and experts in 250 contested asylum law hearings.
- Wrote 150+ briefs to the Board of Immigration Appeals using Westlaw legal research on federal regulations and case law.
- Reviewed prosecutorial discretion requests and closed 400 low-priority cases by stipulation.