

# ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES

## OVERVIEW:

The Office of Administrative Law Judges (OALJ) presides over and conducts formal hearings on the record in accordance with 5 United States Code (U.S.C.) Subchapter II, “[Administrative Procedure](#)”, sections (§) 556 and 557. OALJ serves as the adjudicator in proceedings involving EPA actions for:

- The assessment of civil penalties under various environmental statutes;
- The issuance of compliance orders;
- The suspension and cancellation of pesticide registrations; and
- Any other enforcement action brought by the EPA pursuant to a regulation that requires the Administrator to hold a hearing on the record.

Federal ALJs are certified by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) and appointed in accordance with [5 U.S.C. § 3105](#), “Appointment of administrative law judges.”

## KEY INFORMATION:

OALJ currently has three administrative law judges, one of whom is designated the Chief Administrative Law Judge and is responsible for administrative management of the office. For purposes of facilitating office administration and management only, OALJ reports to the OMS Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator (PDAA).

OALJ offers a voluntary alternative dispute resolution (ADR) program to all parties appearing before the judges. The office also maintains the official record in contested proceedings and supervises the Headquarters Hearing Clerk(s). Decisions issued by the ALJs are subject to review by the [Environmental Appeals Board \(EAB\)](#). An ALJ’s initial decision, which is a disposition of all of the issues in a proceeding, becomes the final order of the EPA within 45 days after service upon the parties, unless a party appeals to the EAB, or the EAB on its own initiative elects to review the initial decision.

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For more information, see the OALJ website: [www.epa.gov/alj](http://www.epa.gov/alj)

## KEY EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS:

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Congress | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry         | <input type="checkbox"/> States                            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tribes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Media | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Federal Agency |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NGO      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Government | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (name of stakeholder) _____ |  |   |  |