

Court Information Release



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EASTERN DIVISION
219 SOUTH DEARBORN STREET
CHICAGO, IL 60604

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Thomas M. Durkin Nominated to the Bench in the Northern District of Illinois

CHICAGO – On Monday, May 21, 2012, President Barack Obama nominated Thomas M. Durkin to be a U.S. district judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

Durkin received his Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Illinois in 1975 and his Juris Doctorate from the DePaul University College of Law in 1978, graduating with honors from both institutions. After law school, Durkin worked as a law clerk to now-retired District Judge Stanley J. Roszkowski in 1979 and 1980. Durkin then served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Northern District of Illinois from 1980 to 1993, where he held the positions of First Assistant U.S. Attorney, Chief of the Special Prosecutions Division, and Chief of the Criminal Receiving & Appellate Division. Durkin is currently a partner at Mayer Brown LLP, and focuses on commercial and business litigation as well as white collar criminal defense. An experienced litigator and Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, Durkin has tried over 55 jury trials to verdict.

“The judges of the Northern District of Illinois are delighted by the nomination of such a distinguished lawyer,” Chief Judge James F. Holderman said. “We thank Senators Dick Durbin and Mark Kirk for their bipartisan approach to filling our court’s judicial vacancies and we enthusiastically look forward to Tom Durkin’s confirmation.” Durkin’s nomination is to fill the judicial position that became vacant on the district court on July 31, 2010 when Judge Wayne R. Andersen retired. There are currently five district judge vacancies on the Northern District of Illinois bench. Following the swearing-in of Judge-Designate John Z. Lee and Judge-Designate John J. Tharp, Jr., both of whom were confirmed by the Senate recently, the number of vacancies will be cut to three. When Durkin is confirmed and sworn in, only two of the current vacancies will remain on the district court.