

## Court Information Release



Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division  
219 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois 60604

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### **Judge John F. Kness Sworn in as District Judge for the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois**

Chicago, Ill. - On February 28, 2020, in a private ceremony, Chief Judge Rebecca R. Pallmeyer swore in John F. Kness as U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

“We are happy to welcome Judge Kness to the district court bench. Judge Kness’ practice experience in both civil and criminal matters, his history of public service, and his commitment to the rule of law demonstrate that he will serve our district well,” said Chief Judge Pallmeyer.

Prior to joining the district court bench, Judge Kness served as the General Counsel of the College of DuPage, where he oversaw all legal matters at the second-largest institution of higher learning in the State of Illinois. Judge Kness also served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Northern District of Illinois, with assignments in the National Security and Cybercrimes, Narcotics, and General Crimes Sections. Upon graduation from law school, Judge Kness served as a law clerk to Judge William H. Pryor Jr., of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. Judge Kness earned his undergraduate degree at Northwestern University. He performed for several years as a professional musician and served as a patrol officer for the Oak Park Police Department before returning to Northwestern for his law degree.

On June 24, 2019, the President nominated Judge Kness to fill the U.S. District Court judgeship previously held by Samuel Der-Yeghiayan, who retired on February 17, 2018.

District court judges are nominated by the President and confirmed by the United States Senate, as stated in the Constitution. The Senate Judiciary Committee typically conducts confirmation hearings for each nominee. Article III of the Constitution states that these judicial officers are appointed for a life term.

Judge Kness will immediately receive a caseload of 313 randomly assigned civil cases and will immediately be added to the civil case assignment system in order to be assigned new cases. Judge Kness will sit in Dirksen U.S. Courthouse Courtroom 1725 and his chambers will be in Chambers 1764.

A formal investiture ceremony for Judge Kness will be held at a later date.

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Chief Judge Pallmeyer swears in Judge Kness.