



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

Release Date:
January 2, 2024

Contact: Julie Hodek, Public Information Officer
United States District Court for
the Northern District of Illinois
219 S. Dearborn St., #2548
Chicago, IL 60604
312-435-5693

Judge Jacqueline P. Cox sworn in as Chief Bankruptcy Judge

Chicago, Ill. – Effective January 1, 2024, Judge Jacqueline P. Cox was sworn in as Chief Bankruptcy Judge for the Northern District of Illinois. The full Court of the District Court for the Northern District of Illinois voted to designate Judge Cox as Chief Bankruptcy Judge for a period of four years, commencing January 1, 2024, and continuing through December 31, 2027. Outgoing Chief Bankruptcy Judge A. Benjamin Goldgar completed his four-year term Chief Judge on December 31, 2023.

“The court congratulates Judge Cox and welcomes her to this new role as Chief Judge of the bankruptcy court. We know that Judge Cox’s expertise, leadership, and experience will serve the bankruptcy court well,” said Chief Judge Rebecca R. Pallmeyer, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois.

“The district court judges also extend our gratitude to Juge Goldgar for his service as Chief. He skillfully led the bankruptcy court through the challenges presented by the COVID-19 health crisis,” said Judge Pallmeyer.

Judge Jacqueline P. Cox was appointed a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Northern District of Illinois in 2003 and was reappointed in 2017. She earned her undergraduate degree from Cornell University in 1971, and her J.D. from Boston University School of Law in 1974.

Judge Cox previously served as a Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County from 1988-2003; four years of that service was as the Presiding Judge for the First Municipal District.

Judge Cox worked in the Public Defender's Office in Mercer County, New Jersey, from 1976-1977; the Office of the Cook County State's Attorney from 1978-1984; the City of Chicago Law Department from 1984-1988; and the Chicago Housing Authority Law Department in 1988.

Bankruptcy cases are adjudicated by Bankruptcy Judges in federal courts under rules outlined in the U.S. Bankruptcy Code. A U.S. bankruptcy judge is appointed by the judges of the local U.S. Court of Appeals to a 14-year term and is eligible for reappointment. The relevant statute, 28 USC §154(b), provides that in each district court having more than one bankruptcy judge, the district court shall designate one judge to serve as chief bankruptcy judge, responsible for the effective execution of court business and the oversight of many administrative matters.

The Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Illinois is comprised of the Eastern Division and Western Division. With court locations in Chicago, Joliet, Rockford, Lake County, and Geneva, the Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Illinois stretches across 18 counties.

##