

Court Information Release



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

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the Northern District of Illinois
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Judge Franklin U. Valderrama Sworn in as District Judge for the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois

Chicago, Ill. - Today in a private ceremony Chief Judge Rebecca R. Pallmeyer swore in Franklin U. Valderrama as a U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

“Our court is so delighted to welcome Judge Valderrama to our district court bench. Judge Valderrama’s significant judicial experience will benefit the people of the Northern District of Illinois,” said Chief Judge Rebecca R. Pallmeyer.

Prior to joining the district court, Judge Valderrama served as a Chancellor, a judge in the Chancery Division of the Circuit Court of Cook County. Before joining the Circuit Court in 2007, Judge Valderrama was a partner at Sanchez, Daniels & Hoffman LLP, where his practice focused on civil litigation. Judge Valderrama has also served as an adjunct professor at UIC John Marshall Law school. Judge Valderrama earned his undergraduate from the University of Illinois at Chicago and his law degree from the DePaul University College of Law.

Judge Valderrama believes he is the first Panamanian-American to serve as an Article III judge.

On February 5, 2020, the President announced his intent to nominate Judge Valderrama to serve as a United States District Judge, and on February 12, 2020, his nomination was sent to the Senate. He was confirmed on September 17, 2020.

Judge Valderrama fills the seat vacated by former Judge Rubén Castillo, who retired from the court on September 27, 2019.

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 Valderrama will immediately receive a caseload of 371 randomly assigned civil cases and will immediately be added to the civil case assignment system in order to be assigned new cases. Judge Valderrama will sit in Dirksen U.S. Courthouse Courtroom 1219 and his chambers will be in Chambers 1278.

A formal investiture ceremony for Judge Valderrama will be held later.

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