

Court Information Release



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

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U.S. Magistrate Judge Susan E. Cox to Retire from Bench on August 9, 2023

Chief Judge Rebecca R. Pallmeyer announced today that Magistrate Judge Susan E. Cox will retire from the bench effective August 9, 2023.

“Judge Cox has left an indelible mark on our court and district. I wish her all the best in retirement. Her compassionate leadership in both the Second C.H.A.N.C.E. Reentry program and the Veterans Treatment Court has made a positive difference in the lives of so many,” said Judge Pallmeyer. “We are also grateful to Judge Cox as she always enthusiastically welcomed every opportunity to preside over naturalization ceremonies. She has sworn in hundreds of new citizens during her tenure on the court.”

Judge Cox was selected as a Magistrate Judge for the Northern District of Illinois in Chicago on April 19, 2007, and took office on August 27, 2007.

Judge Cox served on the court’s James B. Moran Second C.H.A.N.C.E. Re-Entry program since 2013. The Second C.H.A.N.C.E. program is designed to help former federal inmates reintegrate into the community and live law-abiding lives after they are released from prison through intensive supervision and frequent meetings with a team of judges, probation officers, Assistant U.S. Attorneys, Federal Defenders, treatment providers and U.S. Marshals.

In 2016, Judge Cox helped establish the court’s Veterans Treatment Court, over which she presided for seven years. The Veterans Treatment Court collaborates with the UIC Chicago Veterans Legal Clinic to allow honorably discharged veterans to enter a diversion agreement with the U.S. Attorney’s office if charged with a misdemeanor. With assistance from the UIC Chicago Veterans Legal Clinic, charged veterans enter and complete programs focusing on PTSD, anger management, mental health, and drug and alcohol addiction. Participating

veterans meet with Veterans Treatment Court judge monthly to review their progress. Those who successfully complete treatment and commit no new offenses will not be prosecuted.

Prior to her appointment as Magistrate Judge, Judge Cox was the president and owner of The Law Offices of Susan E. Cox, Ltd., a litigation firm specializing in federal criminal defense and litigation. Judge Cox also served for three years as Law Clerk to U.S. District Judge Wayne R. Andersen, eight years as an Assistant United States Attorney, and thirteen years in civil practice, including substantial trial work in employment, commercial, and patent infringement cases. Judge Cox also served as an impartial Due Process Hearing Officer for the Illinois State Board of Education from June 2005 until June 2007, and as a Federal Defender panel attorney from 2003 until her judicial appointment. Judge Cox was appointed by the federal court to assist in monitoring employment actions of the City of Chicago and served in that capacity from August 2005 until her appointment as Magistrate Judge. She earned her undergraduate from Allegheny College and her law degree from Boston University Law School.

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