

Court Information Release



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

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Jeannice Williams Appenteng Sworn in as U.S. Magistrate Judge

*Magistrate Judge Appenteng makes history as first African American woman to serve as
Magistrate Judge in Northern District of Illinois*

CHICAGO, Ill.- Today in a private ceremony Jeannice Williams Appenteng was sworn in as a United States Magistrate Judge for the Northern District of Illinois. Judge Appenteng makes history as she is the first African American woman to serve as a Magistrate Judge in this district. District Judge Sharon Johnson Coleman, for whom Judge Appenteng previously clerked, administered the oath of office.

“We welcome Judge Appenteng to our Magistrate Judge Bench and celebrate this history-making appointment. Judge Appenteng’s outstanding credentials, including expertise in handling highly complex civil and criminal litigation, will serve this district well,” said Chief Judge Rebecca R. Pallmeyer.

From 2015 until joining the bench, Judge Appenteng served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Northern District of Illinois. Prior to joining the USAO, she served as law clerk to Hon. Sharon Johnson Coleman of this Court and to the Hon. James A. Beaty, Jr. of the Middle District of North Carolina. For approximately five years, she practiced litigation at Schiff Hardin LLP. Prior to law school, Judge Appenteng worked for a non-profit organization, serving a middle school in New Orleans whose target group was pre-teen, at-risk, Black males. Judge Appenteng received her undergraduate degree from Georgetown University and her law degree from Tulane University School of Law.

Judge Appenteng fills the magistrate judge vacancy created when Judge Jeffrey I. Cummings was elevated to the district court bench.

Magistrate judges perform a variety of duties for the court, including conducting preliminary proceedings in federal criminal cases and the trial and disposition of federal misdemeanor cases upon consent of the litigants. They conduct various pretrial matters and evidentiary proceedings upon referral from a district judge of the court and the trial and disposition of federal civil cases upon consent of the litigants. Magistrate judges serve a renewable eight-year term.

Magistrate Judge Appenteng will preside in Chicago. Judge Appenteng's Courtroom is Courtroom 1350, and her chambers is in 1356 Dirksen U.S. Courthouse. A public swearing-in ceremony will be held at a future date.

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