

Court Information Release



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

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Court Welcomes District Judge Nancy Maldonado in Ceremonial Investiture

Chicago, Ill. – On July 14, 2023, U.S. District Judge Nancy Maldonado was sworn in as a district judge at a ceremonial investiture.

“As Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee and as her home state Senator, I had the privilege of playing a part in Judge Maldonado’s confirmation to the Northern District of Illinois,” said U.S. Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL). “From her days at Columbia Law School to her service in Cook County and the Illinois Attorney General’s office to her work in private practice, she has stood up for working families and defended the civil rights of every American. Judge Maldonado embodies the best of our justice system, and her unique perspective as the first Latina Article III judge in Illinois will help ensure our federal judiciary reflects the diversity of America.”

“Judge Maldonado is a talented, compassionate, and well-respected jurist. We are so pleased she has joined the District Court bench. It is a momentous day for our Court and district as Judge Maldonado is the first Latina to serve as an Article III judge in Illinois,” said Chief Judge Rebecca R. Pallmeyer.

Senator Durbin and Chief Judge Pallmeyer each welcomed guests. Hon. Ruben Castillo (Retired) made the motion to administer the Oath of Office, and U.S. Magistrate Judge Jeffrey I. Cummings administered the Oath.

Prior to joining the Court, Judge Maldonado was a partner at Miner, Barnhill & Galland, P.C. in Chicago, Illinois. Judge Maldonado joined the firm as an associate in 2003 and was elevated to partner in 2010. She previously served as a law clerk for Retired Judge Rubén Castillo on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois from 2001 to 2003. Judge Maldonado received her J.D. from Columbia Law School in 2001, and her Bachelor of Arts from Harvard College in 1997.

On April 13, 2022, President Joe Biden announced his intent to nominate Judge Maldonado to serve as a United States District Judge, and on April 25, 2022, her nomination was sent to the Senate. She was confirmed on July 19, 2022. She received her judicial commission on August 10, 2022, and was sworn in on October 3, 2022. Judge Maldonado fills the seat vacated by Judge Kennelly, who took senior status on October 7, 2021.

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Above left: Judge Maldonado. Above right: Senator Durbin.



Above left: Retired Chief Judge Castillo. Above right: Chief Judge Pallmeyer.

Photos by Doug McGoldrick