

Court Information Release



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EASTERN DIVISION
219 SOUTH DEARBORN STREET
CHICAGO, IL 60604

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Northern District of Illinois Welcomes Judge Ruben Castillo as Its Chief Judge After Completion by Chief Judge Holderman of Seven-Year Term

CHICAGO – Judge Ruben Castillo became the Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois at midnight earlier today upon the expiration of Chief Judge Holderman’s seven-year term. The succession occurred automatically pursuant to statute. Chief Judge Castillo is the first Latino to hold that position in this district.

Judge James Holderman, who will return to active status with a full caseload, stated: “This is an historic day. I am delighted to turn over my chief judge responsibilities to so capable and talented a jurist as Chief Judge Castillo. The Northern District of Illinois is in good hands. I am grateful for all the support I have received these past seven years. I feel honored to have had the opportunity to serve our country in this way.”

Clerk of Court Tom Bruton stated: “I look forward to working with Chief Judge Castillo on the challenges that our Court faces. As Chief, Judge Holderman’s caring, open, and inspiring leadership has placed our Court in an excellent position to meet those challenges.”

Chief Judge Castillo grew up in Chicago’s West Town, on the city’s near northwest side, and became the first member of his family to graduate from college. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Loyola University Chicago in 1976, and his law degree from Northwestern University School of Law in 1979. Upon graduating from Northwestern, Chief Judge Castillo joined Jenner & Block LLP as an associate attorney, becoming the first Latino lawyer at the firm. He worked at Jenner & Block for five years litigating both civil and criminal matters before joining the United States Attorney’s Office for the Northern District of Illinois in 1984.

In 1988, he became the director of the Chicago office of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF), where he served as an advocate for the Latino community, initiating actions to end employment discrimination and working to address

issues including voting rights, education, and immigration. In 1991, he returned to private practice as a partner at the Chicago law firm of Kirkland & Ellis LLP, and he was nominated to the bench by President Clinton on January 27, 1994. Throughout his career Chief Judge Castillo has received numerous awards, including, being named Latino Judge of the Year by the Hispanic National Bar Association and Catholic Lawyer of the Year by the Catholic Lawyers Guild of Chicago. In 2011, MALDEF awarded Chief Judge Castillo its Lifetime Achievement Award.

Chief Judge Castillo also served as one of the Vice Chairs of the United States Sentencing Commission from 1999 to 2010.

Chief Judge Castillo said: “It is my extreme honor to follow Judge Holderman as chief judge of one of the finest district courts in the United States. I only hope I can continue the great success Judge Holderman had during his seven year tenure at the helm of our court.”

Chief Judge Castillo’s Chambers are in Room 2548 of the U.S. Dirksen Courthouse and his courtroom is 2541. He can be reached at the Chief Judge’s phone number, (312) 435-5600. Judge Holderman has returned to Chambers 2146, the chambers in which he previously served for more than twenty years as a judge. He will be in courtroom 2141 and can be reached at (312) 435-5632.

A special ceremonial session of the Court will take place at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 2, 2013 to welcome Chief Judge Castillo and thank Judge Holderman for his service as Chief Judge over the past seven years.