Court Information Release



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

Release Date:

September 29, 2020

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United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois

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Judge Iain D. Johnston Sworn in as District Judge for the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois

Today in a private ceremony Chief Judge Rebecca R. Pallmeyer swore Iain D. Johnston as a U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, Western Division.

"For the last seven years, Judge Johnston has served our court with distinction as a U.S. magistrate judge. The court is so pleased that Judge Johnston will now be joining our district judge bench," said Chief Judge Rebecca R. Pallmeyer.

Since 2013, Judge Johnston served as U.S. Magistrate Judge on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois in the court's Western Division in Rockford. Before joining the magistrate judge bench, Judge Johnston was a unit supervisor for the Office of the Illinois Attorney General and in private practice with Altheimer & Gray, Holland & Knight LLP, and Johnston Greene LLC. Judge Johnston earned his undergraduate degree from Rockford College. Upon graduation from UIC John Marshall Law School, Judge Johnston served as a law clerk to Judge Philip G. Reinhard of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. Judge Johnston also serves as an adjunct professor at UIC John Marshall Law School.

On February 5, 2020, the President announced his intent to nominate Judge Johnston 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 Johnston fills the seat vacated by Judge Frederick J. Kapala, who took senior status on May 10, 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.

Civil cases in the Western Division that have been assigned to the Eastern Division will be immediately reassigned to Judge Johnston, and he will immediately be added to the civil and criminal case assignment system in order to be assigned new cases. Judge Johnston will sit in Roszkowski U.S. Courthouse Courtroom 5200 and his chambers will be in Chambers 6200.

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

