

Court Information Release



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

Release Date:
September 8, 2015

Contact: Thomas G. Bruton
Clerk of Court
United States District Court for the
Northern District of Illinois
219 S. Dearborn St., 20th Fl.
Chicago, IL 60604
(312) 435-6860

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SEEKS CANDIDATES FOR UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE POSITION

CHICAGO – United States Chief District Judge Rubén Castillo announced today that the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois is seeking candidates for an upcoming vacant magistrate judge position in Chicago, Illinois. The magistrate judge position will become vacant on June 15, 2016, when Presiding Magistrate Judge Geraldine Soat Brown will retire.

The magistrate judge opening is a full-time position with an eight-year term of office and a duty station at the Everett McKinley Dirksen United States Courthouse in Chicago, Illinois. The duties of the position of a United States magistrate judge include conducting most preliminary proceedings in federal criminal cases, the trial and disposition of federal misdemeanor cases as well as civil cases upon consent of the litigants, conducting various civil pretrial matters, such as settlement conferences and other proceedings on reference from the district judges of the Court.

Interested applicants must complete the official application and submit it to the Clerk of the Court, Thomas G. Bruton by October 6, 2015. Applications will be reviewed by the Merit Selection Panel that Chief Judge Rubén Castillo will appoint to screen the candidates and make recommendations to the district judges in February of 2016. The Merit Selection Panel will be chaired by Chicago Bar Association President Patricia Holmes and will include a number of attorneys and members of the public.

To qualify for appointment as a United States magistrate judge, an applicant must be a member in good standing of the bar of the highest court of a State, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or the Virgin Islands of the United States, and have been engaged in the active practice of law for a period of at least five years. The applicant must be less than seventy years of age, and may not be related to a judge of the district court. For more information on the application process, please visit the Court's website at www.ilnd.uscourts.gov.

The Northern District of Illinois is authorized twelve magistrate judges in Chicago and one magistrate judge in Rockford, IL. Last year, parties consented to proceed before the magistrate judges in the Northern District of Illinois in over 750 civil cases. Magistrate judges in the Northern District

of Illinois also conducted nearly 1500 settlement conferences last year. In addition to their responsibilities in civil cases, magistrate judges review and approve search and seizure warrant applications in criminal matters and handle criminal duty matters on a rotating basis.

With its twenty-two authorized district judgeships, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois is the third largest district court in the nation. The Northern District of Illinois stretches across 18 counties from the southernmost point in La Salle County to the westernmost point in Jo Davies County at the Iowa border, an area of nearly 10,100 square miles, with a total population of nearly 9.3 million persons.

###