

Court Information Release



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

Release Date:
April 16, 2018

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U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois Now Accepting Applications for the Position of U.S. Magistrate Judge

CHICAGO, Ill. – Chief Judge Rubén Castillo announced today that the U.S. District Court will now be accepting applications for the position of U.S. Magistrate Judge.

“We invite the applications of all qualified and interested attorneys who wish to join the Court’s talented and hard-working Magistrate Judge bench,” said Chief Judge Castillo.

The Court expects, subject to Judicial Conference and Circuit Council approval, that one vacancy will exist for the position of U. S. Magistrate Judge next year, following the retirement of Magistrate Judge Michael T. Mason in January 2019.

In the upcoming months, Chief Judge Castillo will appoint a Merit Selection Panel that will screen the candidates and make recommendations to the district judges in September of 2018.

“We have confidence in this highly esteemed and richly diverse panel to vet and qualify Magistrate Judge candidates. On behalf of the Court, I thank the Selection Panel for agreeing to undertake, on a volunteer basis, this important work for the people of the Northern District of Illinois,” said Chief Judge Castillo.

The Panel, which is statutorily required to include at least two non-lawyers and cannot include any sitting judge, will be comprised of the following individuals:

Merit Selection Panel Chair, Patricia Brown Holmes, Riley Safer Holmes & Cancila LLP
Ricardo Estrada,* President and CEO, Metropolitan Family Services
Joseph M. Gagliardo, Laner Muchin, Ltd.
Marisel A. Hernandez, Jacobs, Burns, Orlove & Hernandez
Hon. Arlander Keys, Ret.
Spiridoula (Litza) Mavrothalasitis, City of Chicago - Department of Law, Employment
Litigation Division
Samuel S. Park, Winston & Strawn

Esther Franco-Payne*, Executive Director, Cabrini Green Legal Aid
Stephen H. Pugh, Pugh Jones Johnson
Sergio F. Rodriguez, Federal Defender Program
Zaldwaynaka (Z) Scott, Foley & Lardner LLP
Natalie J. Spears, Dentons US LLP
Nigel F. Telman, Proskauer

*non-attorneys

This U.S. Magistrate Judge position is a full-time position with an eight-year term of office and a duty station at the Everett McKinley Dirksen U.S. Courthouse, 219 S. Dearborn Street 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.

To qualify for appointment as a U. S. 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. In a change from previous Magistrate Judge vacancy postings, the application process is now on-line. For more information and to apply, please click [HERE](#). The application process will close at 4:30 p.m. on May 18, 2018.

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