



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

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SARA LEE ELLIS' NOMINATION AS JUDGE  
OF THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS CONFIRMED

CHICAGO – On Monday evening, October 7, 2013, the United States Senate confirmed the nomination of Sara Lee Ellis as a U.S. district judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

Judge-Designate Ellis received her B.A. from Indiana University in 1991 and her Juris Doctorate from the Loyola University Chicago School of Law in 1994. After law school, Ellis worked as a staff attorney at the Federal Defender Program in Chicago from 1994 to 1999. From 2000 to 2004, she worked at Stetler, Duffy & Rotert, Ltd., a white-collar criminal defense law firm. She then served as Assistant Corporation Counsel for the City of Chicago Department of Law from 2004 to 2007, where she handled class claims for injunctive relief and civil rights lawsuits. Ellis is currently counsel at the law firm of Schiff Hardin, LLP in Chicago, where she is a member of the litigation and White Collar Crime practice groups.

On May 6, 2013, President Obama nominated Ellis to be a United States District Judge of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, to the seat vacated by Judge Joan B. Gottschall, who took senior status on April 23, 2012. She received a hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee on June 19, 2013, and her nomination was reported to the floor of the Senate on July 18, 2013, by voice vote. The Senate confirmed her nomination on October 7, 2013, by voice vote. She is currently awaiting her commission.

Chief Judge Castillo said, "The Court is gratified by the Senate's confirmation of Sara Ellis. She will be a fine addition to our bench. I wish to expressly thank Senators Durbin and Kirk for their joint efforts in securing Ms. Ellis' confirmation."

On May 6, 2013, President Obama nominated Andrea R. Wood to replace Judge William J. Hibbler, who died on March 19, 2012, in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. She received a hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee on June 19, 2013, and her nomination was reported to the floor of the Senate on July 18, 2013, by voice vote.

Illinois' two U.S. Senators, Dick Durbin and Mark Kirk, have successfully worked together to recommend qualified individuals for federal judgeships to the President. The President has nominated Manish Shah to fill the remaining vacancy on the Northern District of Illinois bench.