

## 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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### **MAGISTRATE JUDGE SIDNEY SCHENKIER ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL MAGISTRATE JUDGES ASSOCIATION**

CHICAGO – Magistrate Judge Sidney I. Schenkier has been selected to serve as the President of the Federal Magistrate Judges Association (FMJA). Judge Schenkier took on the responsibilities as FMJA president on July 30, 2013 and will serve in that role for one year.

The FMJA traces its roots back to 1961, when it was formed as the Organization of United States Commissioners. Today the organization has more than 600 members, including both current and former magistrate judges. The FMJA has long embraced the mission of promoting an independent and efficient judiciary. It has actively sought to advance the public's understanding of the role of magistrate judges in the federal court system, and to improve the utilization of magistrate judges by that system.

The FMJA is extensively involved in promoting diversity in the federal courts, the review of proposed changes to federal judicial rules and procedures, and to the review of legislative actions that affect the judicial branch of the federal government. In addition, the organization promotes legal scholarship through the journal it publishes, the Federal Courts Law Review.

Magistrate Judge Schenkier was sworn in as a judge of the Northern District of Illinois on October 30, 1998. He subsequently served as the Court's Presiding Magistrate Judge from 2008 until 2012. Before joining the Court, Judge Schenkier was in private practice with the firm of Jenner and Block for seventeen years. He has been on the adjunct faculty of Northwestern University School of Law for the past twenty-six years and has also been an instructor for the National Institute of Trial Advocacy.

Judge Schenkier became the FMJA Circuit Representative for the Seventh Circuit in 2003. He went on to be elected to the FMJA's Executive Committee, and has previously served as the FMJA Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President and President Elect.