

## 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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### **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SEEKS FEEDBACK FROM TRIAL BAR MEMBERS**

CHICAGO – United States Chief District Judge Rubén Castillo announced today that the District Court for the Northern District of Illinois sent out a [survey](#) today to all members of the trial bar. The electronic survey was emailed to all 13,012 members in good standing of the trial bar. Chief Judge Castillo explained that it was the first time that the Court had sent a survey to the trial bar members. First suggested by the Court’s Pro Bono Committee, chaired by Bob Glaves, Executive Director of The Chicago Bar Foundation, the objective of the survey is to gather feedback around all aspects of the trial bar in an effort to improve the interaction between the bench and the bar. Responses to the survey are due by Friday, October 2, 2015. Members of the trial bar can also access the [survey](#) through the Court’s website, [www.ilnd.uscourts.gov](http://www.ilnd.uscourts.gov).

Chief Judge Castillo stated, “The trial bar program is of critical importance to the Court – the views of our members are of great interest and significance as we continue to grow and move into the future.” Castillo continued, “The Court is committed to taking action based on the input and recommendations of the membership of the trial bar. I ask that each member of the trial bar take a few minutes out of their busy schedules to provide the Court their unique perspective.”

The Northern District of Illinois has two bar membership programs, the general bar and the trial bar. An attorney may apply to be in the Court’s general bar if they are a member in good standing of the highest court of any state of the United States or the District of Columbia. Applicants must submit affidavits from two attorneys who have been members in good standing for at least two years. In order to qualify for the trial bar, attorneys must be a member in good standing of the general bar of this Court, and provide evidence that they have trial experience. Members of the trial bar have a duty to be available to accept pro bono assignments from the Court. The Court’s trial bar is defined in Local Rule 83.11 and attorneys, who are interested in joining, should review the requirements on the Court’s website, [www.ilnd.uscourts.gov](http://www.ilnd.uscourts.gov).

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. Last year, over 11,500 civil cases were filed in the Northern District of Illinois. 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.

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