



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

219 SOUTH DEARBORN STREET  
CHICAGO, IL 60604

**Court Welcomes United States District Judge Frederick J. Kapala**

The Judges of the District Court welcome United States District Judge Frederick J. Kapala to the Northern District of Illinois. On Tuesday of this week, Judge Kapala's nomination was confirmed by a unanimous vote of the United States Senate, 91-0. From there, Judge Kapala's nomination moved quickly to the desk of President Bush, who signed Judge Kapala's appointment papers on May 10, 2007. Later that same day, Judge Kapala was sworn-in by District Judge Philip G. Reinhard in a private ceremony.

Judge Kapala graduated from Marquette University and received his law degree from the University of Illinois in 1976. He served as an Assistant State's Attorney and then went into private practice, where he was appointed as a Special Assistant Attorney General to manage consumer fraud cases in Northern Illinois. He began his judicial career in 1982 as an Associate Judge in Illinois' 17th Judicial Circuit, serving as Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court from 1989 to 1991. Judge Kapala was elected a Circuit Judge in 1994 and appointed Presiding Judge of the Criminal Division one year later. In 2001, Judge Kapala was assigned to the Appellate Court of Illinois, Second District, where he served on the Illinois Judicial Conference Committee on Discovery Procedures and the Illinois State Judicial Inquiry Board. Judge Kapala is a captain in the U.S. Army.

In a process that began over a year and a half ago, former House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., submitted Judge Kapala's name to President Bush for consideration for the position that would become vacant in the Western Division when District Judge Reinhard took senior status, beginning in 2007. Judge Reinhard has served as an active District Court judge in the Western Division of the Northern District since 1992. In January, 2007, when Judge Reinhard took senior status, District Judge James B. Zagel offered to assist the court by taking on a significant number of cases from the Western Division. As this transition period now comes to a close, Chief Judge James F. Holderman recognizes, with much appreciation, the efforts put forth by both Judge Reinhard and Judge Zagel to make the transition as smooth as possible.

**Date:** May 11, 2007