

## U.S. Magistrate Judge Gabriel A. Fuentes - Biography

Since U.S. Magistrate Judge Gabriel A. Fuentes was appointed to the bench in May 2019, mediation and settlement have formed a substantial portion of his judicial duties, along with supervision of civil discovery. In his first six years on the court, Judge Fuentes has conducted more than 300 mediations, developing an empathic but persistent mediation style that is more facilitative than evaluative, and that uses active listening and reality testing to work with counsel to help parties understand how the costs and uncertainties of litigation might warrant settlement and compromise. Mediations and settlements before Judge Fuentes have included class actions over data breaches and biometric privacy, insurance coverage disputes, labor and employment litigation, commercial contract litigation, intellectual property matters involving patent and copyright law, complex tort litigation, and civil rights lawsuits alleging municipal and officer liability. The judge teaches mediation skills and trial practice, respectively, as an adjunct faculty member at the UIC School of Law and Northwestern University's Pritzker School of Law. Adding to the judge's perspective on settlement, as a judge and practitioner he has conducted or presided over numerous jury and bench trials, contested civil evidentiary hearings, and contested civil motion hearings.

He has authored hundreds of judicial orders and opinions on a wide range of subjects, including the constitutional limits of electronic "geofence" searches; ethical conduct by counsel in mediation; reasoned approaches to respecting attorney-client, work-product, and other privileges against civil discovery; public access to search warrant documents in completed criminal investigations; the limits of civil litigants' ability to subpoena news organizations for information; and the distinction between criminal pre-trial detention of unauthorized immigrants and their administrative custody for purposes of removal from the United States.

Before he became a federal magistrate judge and mediator, the judge developed a wide range of litigation and mediation experience at the global law firm of Jenner & Block, representing individuals, corporations and media companies in complex civil and international criminal matters, as well as internal investigations, trials, and state and federal appeals. At Jenner & Block, he served as co-chair of the firm's nationally recognized pro bono program and was the Hispanic National Bar Association's Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year, a winner of the Chicago Bar Foundation's Edward J. Lewis II Pro Bono Service Award and the Burton Distinguished Writing Award in Law, and president of the Chicago Council of Lawyers.

The judge also served as an assistant U.S. attorney in Chicago, a law clerk to legendary federal district judge John F. Grady, and a professional journalist for news organizations including the Los Angeles Times, the Chicago Tribune, and the City News Bureau of Chicago. Judge Fuentes is a graduate of Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism and Pritzker School of Law, where he was a member of the Law Review. He is a frequent writer and speaker on ethics, discovery issues, and settlement through mediation.