

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

Since U.S. Magistrate Judge Gabriel A. Fuentes was appointed to the bench in May 2019, he has conducted nearly 400 mediations and has written 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; the applicability of privileges to federal civil discovery; public access to search warrant documents in completed criminal investigations; the limits of civil litigants’ ability to subpoena news organizations for information; the breadth of executive branch power to enforce administrative search warrants directed at workplace safety issues; and the use of outdated occupations in Social Security benefits determinations. The subject matters of the judge’s published articles include federal criminal initial appearances, preliminary hearings, jury instructions, and post-trial motions; the intersection of federal criminal procedure and civil immigration enforcement, detentions, and search warrants; and forensic expert testimony in criminal cases. Before becoming 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 a winner of the Hispanic National Bar Association’s Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year award, the Chicago Bar Foundation’s Edward J. Lewis II Pro Bono Service Award, Jenner & Block’s Albert E. Jenner Pro Bono Award, and the Burton Distinguished Writing Award in Law. The judge also served as president of the Chicago Council of Lawyers, 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. The judge teaches mediation skills, trial practice, and criminal law as an adjunct faculty member at the UIC School of Law and Northwestern University’s Pritzker School of Law.