

Court Information Release



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

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Contact: Joel Daly
312-435-5693 (phone)
312-554-8239 (fax)
joel_daly@ilnd.uscourts.gov

Thomas G. Bruton Named Clerk of Court in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois

CHICAGO –Chief Judge James F. Holderman today announced that Thomas G. Bruton has been selected by the judges of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois to serve as Clerk of Court upon the retirement of Michael W. Dobbins on December 31, 2011.

As Clerk of Court, starting January 1, 2012, Mr. Bruton will be responsible for overseeing the administration and operation of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, the third largest federal district court in the country.

Pursuant to federal statute, the Clerk of Court position is filled by appointment of the district court judges. Mr. Bruton was selected by vote of the district judges at their October 20, 2011 meeting following a national search that began in July 2011 when Mr. Dobbins announced his retirement as Clerk of Court, effective December 31, 2011.

Mr. Bruton currently serves as the Space & Procurement Administrator of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, where his responsibilities include managing the court's operating budget, negotiating purchasing contracts on behalf of the court, supervising procurement staff, ensuring the court's compliance with various federal and local laws, and overseeing courthouse construction projects on behalf of the court. Mr. Bruton also serves as the 7th Circuit Director for the Federal Court Clerks Association, and as a member of the National Association for Court Management. Mr. Bruton received a Bachelor of Arts from St. Mary's University of Minnesota, where he majored in criminal justice and political science. He is in the process of completing his certification in Judicial Administration at Michigan State University.

Chief Judge Holderman stated, “We district judges could not be more pleased to welcome Tom Bruton as our new Clerk of Court, starting January 1, 2012. Tom Bruton has always done an outstanding job in his work as a supervising member of our court’s Clerk’s Office staff. I know that will continue, and that our Clerk’s Office will be in good hands in the years ahead as we face difficult budgeting and operations issues during these strained financial times. Tom has a proven track record of success in the areas of budgeting and court administration. Our court and the public are sure to both benefit from Tom’s inspired leadership qualities.”

Chief Judge Holderman added, “At the same time, we recognize with Mike Dobbins’ retirement that our court is losing a person whom I believe to be the best Clerk of Court in the country. Mike Dobbins’ commitment to excellence in the Clerk’s Office of the Northern District of Illinois has been unwavering. Every aspect of his leadership, vision, and planning over these past fourteen years has been truly outstanding. We judges are planning a ceremony for December 15, 2011 at 4:00 p.m. to pay tribute to Mike Dobbins and the wonderful job he has done as our Clerk of Court. As a friend and colleague, he will be sorely missed. We wish Mike the best in all of his future endeavors, as we welcome Tom Bruton to take over the responsibilities as our court’s new Clerk of Court.”