

## Court Information Release



### United States District Court

Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division  
219 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois 60604

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United States District Court for  
the Northern District of Illinois  
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### **U.S. District Court select Beth Jantz and Heather McShain to serve as U.S. Magistrate Judge for the Northern District of Illinois**

CHICAGO, Ill.- Chief Judge Rebecca Pallmeyer announced today that the U.S. District Court has selected Beth Jantz and Heather McShain to be the next United States Magistrate Judges for the Northern District of Illinois. Ms. Jantz and Ms. McShain will fill the next two vacancies on the magistrate judge bench in Chicago, Illinois. Ms. Jantz has been designated to fill the magistrate judge vacancy made available when Judge Mary Rowland was confirmed as United States District Judge. Ms. McShain will fill the vacancy created when Magistrate Judge Sidney Schenkier retires on April 30, 2020.

“We are delighted that Ms. Jantz and Ms. McShain will be joining the Court. Both of these new judges are proven litigators and diligent leaders who have demonstrated their commitment to the rule of law. The court also notes its gratitude to the many talented lawyers who sought this position, and to the hard work of the Merit Selection Panel in selecting finalists.” The Chief Judge noted that Ms. Jantz and Ms. McShain “will be excellent additions to our court, joining the other magistrate judges who serve in this District, among the hardest working and most dedicated in the nation. Our magistrate judges make difficult decisions on criminal matters, handle civil cases on consent and pretrial matters by referral, and conduct settlement conferences in a host of the court’s civil cases.”

Ms. Jantz has been a Staff Attorney with the Federal Defender Program in Chicago since 2008, where she represents persons criminally charged in the Northern District of Illinois who need but cannot afford to hire counsel. Ms. Jantz has worked extensively on addressing e-discovery and electronic case management for the Federal Defender Program, and for Federal Defenders on a national level. Prior to joining the Federal Defender Program, Ms. Jantz was an associate at Sidley Austin where she practiced for three and a half years.

Ms. Jantz graduated from Dartmouth College and received her J.D. from the Northwestern University School of Law. After graduating law school, Ms. Jantz worked as a Staff Attorney in the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. Ms.

Jantz has received several awards including the prestigious 2018 Award for Excellence in Public Interest Service, given by the Federal Bar Association and the U.S. District Court.

Ms. McShain has been an Assistant United States Attorney assigned to the Criminal Division in the Northern District of Illinois since 2010. In that position, Ms. McShain investigated and prosecuted violations of federal criminal laws, and most recently served as a Deputy Chief in the Financial Crimes Section and supervised the Health Care Fraud Unit. Previously, Ms. McShain served as a Deputy Chief in General Crimes and a line Assistant United States Attorney in the General Crimes, Financial Crimes, and Public Corruption and Organized Crimes Sections. Ms. McShain also served as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York where she was assigned to work in the Civil Division from 2002-2010. Early in her career, Ms. McShain was an associate at the Washington, D.C. office of Jones Day. Ms. McShain is an Adjunct Professor at Notre Dame Law School.

Ms. McShain obtained her bachelor's degree in Mathematics from the University of Notre Dame and a J.D. from Notre Dame Law School. After law school, Ms. McShain was a law clerk to Judge William Lee, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Indiana and Judge Robert Cowen, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. Ms. McShain has received several awards, including those from the Chicago Crime Commission, U.S. Department of Labor, Department of Justice, and the Department of State.

The selection of a magistrate judge is governed by statute and by regulations adopted by the Judicial Conference of the United States. The Court had the outstanding assistance of a Merit Selection Panel, which screened and interviewed candidates and made a recommendation to the district judges of ten applicants it found best qualified from more than 220 candidates. The Panel, comprised of both attorneys and non-attorneys, was chaired by Hon. Arlander Keys, Chair (retired). Members of the Panel included Mr. Theodore T. Chung, Mr. Joseph M. Gagliardo, Ms. Vernee Green, Ms. Marisel A. Hernandez, Ms. Simone Jones, Ms. Eileen M. Letts, Ms. Spiridoula (Litza) Mavrothalasitis, Ms. Esther Franco-Payne, Mr. Stephen H. Pugh, Mr. Sergio F. Rodriguez, Ms. Natalie J. Spears, and Mr. Nigel Telman.

The magistrate judge position requires a minimum of five years as a member in good standing of the bar of the highest court of a state and at least five years of active practice of law. The term of office for a magistrate judge is eight years, with the opportunity of renewal of additional terms.

Magistrate judges perform a variety of duties for the court, including conducting preliminary proceedings in federal criminal cases and the trial and disposition of federal misdemeanor cases upon consent of the litigants. They conduct various pretrial matters and evidentiary proceedings upon referral from a district judge of the court and the trial and disposition of federal civil cases upon consent of the litigants.

With twenty-two authorized district judgeships, the U.S. District for the Northern District of Illinois is the third largest district court in the United States. The District spans 18 counties, covering an area of nearly 10,100 square miles, serving a population of 9.3 million people.