



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

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**U.S. District Court selects Gabriel Fuentes to serve as U.S. Magistrate Judge for the Northern District of Illinois**

CHICAGO, Ill.- Chief Judge Rubén Castillo announced today that the U.S. District Court has selected Gabriel Fuentes to be the new United States Magistrate Judge for the Northern District of Illinois. Mr. Fuentes will fill the newly-added Magistrate Judge position in the Eastern Division in Chicago, Illinois.

“I am pleased to have Gabe Fuentes join the Court. The magistrate judge bench in the Northern District of Illinois is the finest in the country, and Mr. Fuentes will be a great addition to the team. Our District relies heavily on its magistrate judges in order manage our dockets, and we are confident that the litigants will be well served by Mr. Fuentes joining the bench,” said Chief Judge Rubén Castillo.

For the last 13 years, Mr. Fuentes has been a litigation partner at Jenner & Block focusing on antitrust criminal defense and complex civil matters. Mr. Fuentes was an Assistant United States Attorney for five years, after seven additional years in civil practice with Jenner & Block. He is a former law clerk to the Honorable John F. Grady. Currently, Mr. Fuentes is also an adjunct faculty member at the Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law, teaching Introduction to Trial Advocacy.

Mr. Fuentes has actively litigated and supported numerous pro bono cases and initiatives throughout his career, and currently serves on the Court’s Pro Bono Advisory Committee. In recognition of his outstanding pro bono work, Mr. Fuentes has received several awards, including Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year from the Hispanic National Bar Association and the Edward J. Lewis II Pro Bono Service Award from the Chicago Bar Association and Chicago Bar Foundation.

Mr. Fuentes' appointment is a result of the Judicial Conference of the United States' approval to add a magistrate judge in the Eastern Division. This is the first new magistrate judge position in 9 years for Chicago.

On September 13, 2018, the Judicial Conference of the United States Courts approved the addition of a new Magistrate Judge position for the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division, bringing the total number of Magistrate Judges in the Eastern Division to 12.

The selection of a magistrate judge is governed by statute and by regulations adopted by the Judicial Conference of the United States. The process included the work of the district's Merit Selection Panel, which screened and interviewed candidates and recommended to the district judges the five candidates it found best qualified out of nearly 130 applicants. The Panel is statutorily required to include among its members at least two non-lawyers and cannot include any sitting judge. The Panel was chaired by Patricia Brown Holmes. Members of the Panel included Theodore T. Chung; Ricardo Estrada; Joseph M. Gagliardo; Marisel A. Hernandez; Hon. Arlander Keys (ret.); Spiridoula (Litza) Mavrothalasitis; Esther Franco-Payne; Stephen Pugh; Sergio Rodriquez; Zalduaynaka (Z) Scott; Natalie Spears; and 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 to renew the appointment for 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 U.S. The Northern District of Illinois stretches across 18 counties, covering an area of nearly 10,100 square miles, with a population of 9.3 million people.

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