



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

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Gabriel Fuentes Sworn-in as U.S. Magistrate Judge

Chicago, Ill. – On May 31, 2019, Chief Judge Rubén Castillo swore-in Gabriel Fuentes as a U.S. Magistrate Judge for the Northern District of Illinois in a private ceremony.

“We are so pleased to welcome Judge Fuentes back to our Court. His vast civil and criminal litigation experience will be an asset to our Court’s hard-working magistrate bench,” said Chief Judge Castillo.

Prior to joining the magistrate bench, Judge Fuentes was a litigation partner at Jenner & Block, focusing on antitrust criminal defense and complex civil matters for 13 years. Judge Fuentes served 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. Judge Fuentes is also an adjunct faculty member at the Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law, teaching Introduction to Trial Advocacy. As an attorney, Judge Fuentes actively litigated and supported numerous pro bono cases and initiatives throughout his career and served on the Court’s Pro Bono Advisory Committee. In recognition of his outstanding pro bono work, he 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. Judge Fuentes earned his undergraduate degree from Northwestern University and his law degree from Northwestern University School of Law.

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

Magistrate Judge Fuentes’ appointment became effective immediately. He will preside in Chicago, in the Eastern Division, and will immediately receive randomly-selected consent cases and civil referrals from his magistrate judge colleagues. A public swearing-in ceremony will be held at the Dirksen U.S. Courthouse on June 21, 2019, at 2:30 p.m.

Magistrate judges serve a renewable eight-year term. 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.

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