

Court Information Release



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EASTERN DIVISION
219 SOUTH DEARBORN STREET
CHICAGO, IL 60604

Release Date:
August 25, 2015

Contact: Thomas G. Bruton
Clerk of Court
United States District Court for the
Northern District of Illinois
219 S. Dearborn St., 20th Fl.
Chicago, IL 60604
(312) 435-6860

MAGISTRATE JUDGE BROWN RETIRING JUNE 15, 2016

CHICAGO - Today, Chief Judge Rubén Castillo announced that Presiding Magistrate Judge Geraldine Soat Brown will retire on June 15, 2016. Presiding Magistrate Judge Brown was first appointed as a United States Magistrate Judge in 2000. Magistrate Judge Brown was reappointed to the bench in 2008.

Chief Judge Rubén Castillo stated, “Magistrate Judge Brown has been a leader in our Court and is known throughout our District as a magistrate judge who will work diligently to assist parties during complex settlement conferences and has handled a large number of difficult civil lawsuits and criminal cases.” Chief Judge Castillo continued, “Magistrate Judge Brown has served this District with distinction. We will forever be grateful for her work on a number of committees and special projects for the Court.”

Prior to her appointment to the bench, Magistrate Judge Brown practiced law in Chicago for 25 years, concentrating her practice in the area of commercial and construction litigation and alternative dispute resolution. She also served as a member of the Federal Defender Panel and was an adjunct Professor of Law at Chicago-Kent Law School, teaching courses on negotiation, mediation and arbitration. Magistrate Judge Brown is a graduate of the University of Chicago Law School.

The process to fill the vacancy left by Magistrate Judge Brown will begin in September by advertising the position. Chief Judge Castillo will use the District’s existing Magistrate Judge Panel, which is chaired by Chicago Bar Association President Patricia Holmes, to screen applicants and make a recommendation to the Court.

United States 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.

The Northern District of Illinois stretches across 18 counties, from the southernmost point in LaSalle County to the westernmost point in Jo Davies County at the Iowa border, an area of nearly 10,100 square miles, with a total population of nearly 9.3 million persons. These counties are divided into the Eastern and Western Divisions of the Northern District of Illinois with courthouses in Chicago and Rockford.

More information about the Northern District of Illinois is available at its website: www.ilnd.uscourts.gov.