



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

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Lisa Jensen Sworn-in as Magistrate Judge for Western Division

Chicago, Ill. – On April 12, 2019, in a private ceremony, Lisa Jensen was sworn-in as a U.S. Magistrate Judge for the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. She will be the first woman to serve as a judicial officer in the Western Division.

“We are so happy to welcome Judge Jensen to our Court. She brings decades of litigation experience and will be an outstanding addition to our bench in Rockford,” said Chief Judge Rubén Castillo.

Magistrate Judge Jensen earned her undergraduate degree from Illinois State University and her law degree from Chicago-Kent College of Law. Beginning in 1986, she worked as an associate in the environmental law department of Sidley Austin for two years. In 1988, she went on to practice in environmental law, medical malpractice and complex commercial litigation as an associate for Lord Bissell and Brook until 1995. In 1995, she, along with a co-partner, established Di Franco and Jensen/Jensen Law Office in Park Ridge, Illinois. In 2002, she and a co-partner established Faulkner & Jensen in Rockford, Illinois, where she handled the firm’s federal litigation including employment discrimination cases and other civil rights matters. In 2008, she became the owner of Jensen Law Office LLC, where she oversaw all of the firm’s legal and administrative work. Magistrate Judge Jensen is also a professor at Northern Illinois University College of Law and worked on the Prisoners' Rights Project, a project in which NIU law students represent inmates incarcerated at various correctional facilities in civil rights litigation.

On September 13, 2018, the Judicial Conference approved the addition of a new Magistrate Judge position for the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Western Division, bringing the total number of Magistrate Judges at the Stanley J. Roszkowski U.S. Courthouse to two.

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. Magistrate Judge Jensen will immediately receive randomly-selected consent cases and civil referrals. A public swearing-in ceremony will be held at a future date.

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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