



Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division
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Judge A. Benjamin Goldgar voted Chief Bankruptcy Judge as outgoing Chief Judge Pamela S. Hollis retires

Chicago, Ill. - The Executive Committee of the District Court for the Northern District of Illinois voted to designate Judge A. Benjamin Goldgar as Chief Bankruptcy Judge for a period of four years, commencing January 1, 2020, and continuing through December 31, 2023. Outgoing Chief Bankruptcy Judge Pamela S. Hollis will retire effective January 2, 2020.

"The district court congratulates Judge Goldgar on his new role as Chief Judge of the bankruptcy court. Judge Goldgar's vast experience and outstanding credentials will be an asset to the Bankruptcy Court," said Chief Judge Rebecca R. Pallmeyer, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois.

Judge A. Benjamin Goldgar was appointed a U.S. Bankruptcy Judge for the Northern District of Illinois in 2003 and was reappointed in 2017. He received his A.B. from Brown University in 1979, and his J.D. from Northwestern University School of Law in 1982, where he was a member of the Journal of Criminal Law & Criminology.

From 1982 to 1995, Judge Goldgar was in private practice in Chicago with Keck, Mahin & Cate. In 1995, he joined the Illinois Attorney General's Office as an Assistant Attorney General in the Civil Appeals Division. He became a Supervising Attorney in the Division in 1997, serving there until his appointment to the bench.

Judge Goldgar has taught appellate advocacy at Loyola University of Chicago Law School and is a past president of the Illinois Appellate Lawyers Association. Judge Goldgar has also served as an associate editor of the American Bankruptcy Law Journal and chaired the Federal Rules

Advisory Committee of the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges. He is currently a member of the Advisory Committee on Bankruptcy Rules of the Judicial Conference of the United States.

“The district court judges extend our best wishes to Judge Hollis on her retirement. She adeptly led the nation’s busiest bankruptcy court and ushered in many initiatives and improvements that helped the court achieve even greater efficiency,” added Chief Judge Pallmeyer.

Bankruptcy cases are adjudicated by Bankruptcy Judges in federal courts under rules outlined in the U.S. Bankruptcy Code. Of the ninety U.S. Bankruptcy Courts, the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Illinois is the busiest, leading the nation with 39,857 cases commenced in the twelve-month period ending September 30, 2019. A U.S. bankruptcy judge is appointed by the judges of the local U.S. Court of Appeals to a 14-year term and is eligible for reappointment. The relevant statute, 28 USC §154(b), provides that in each district court having more than one bankruptcy judge, the district court shall designate one judge to serve as chief bankruptcy judge, responsible for the effective execution of court business and the oversight of many administrative matters.

The Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Illinois is comprised of the Eastern Division and Western Division. With court locations in Chicago, Joliet, Rockford, Lake County, and Geneva, the Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Illinois stretches across 18 counties, covering an area of nearly 10,100 square miles and a population of 9.3 million people.

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