

Court Information Release



United States District Court

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

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Heather McShain Sworn in as U.S. Magistrate Judge

In a private virtual ceremony, Chief Judge Rebecca R. Pallmeyer swore in Heather McShain as a U.S. Magistrate Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

“Our court is so delighted to welcome Judge McShain. She is an outstanding litigator and dedicated public servant. Judge McShain will be a wonderful addition to our court’s talented and hard-working magistrate bench,” said Chief Judge Pallmeyer.

From 2010 until joining the bench, Judge McShain was an Assistant United States Attorney assigned to the Criminal Division in the Northern District of Illinois. In that position, she investigated and prosecuted violations of federal criminal laws, and most recently served as a Deputy Chief in the Financial Crimes Section and supervised the Health Care Fraud Unit. Previously, Judge McShain served as a Deputy Chief in General Crimes and a line Assistant United States Attorney in the General Crimes, Financial Crimes, and Public Corruption and Organized Crimes Sections. Judge McShain also served as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, where she was assigned to work in the Civil Division from 2002-2010. Early in her career, Judge McShain worked as an associate at the Washington, D.C. office of Jones Day.

Judge McShain is also an Adjunct Professor at Notre Dame Law School. She earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Notre Dame and her law degree from Notre Dame Law School. After completion of law school, Judge McShain served as a law clerk to Judge William Lee, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Indiana and Judge Robert Cowen, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. Judge McShain has received several awards, including those from the Chicago Crime Commission, U.S. Department of Labor, Department of Justice, and the Department of State.

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 McShain will preside in Chicago, in the Eastern Division. Judge McShain's Courtroom is Courtroom 1700, and her Chambers is in 1756, Dirksen U.S. Courthouse. A public swearing-in ceremony will be held at a future date. Magistrate judges serve a renewable eight-year term.

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