

## Court Information Release



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

**Release Date:**  
July 1, 2019

**Contact:** Julie Hodek, Public Information Officer  
United States District Court for  
the Northern District of Illinois  
219 S. Dearborn St., #2548  
Chicago, IL 60604  
312-435-5693

### **Northern District of Illinois Welcomes Judge Rebecca Pallmeyer as Its Chief Judge**

Chicago, Ill- Judge Rebecca R. Pallmeyer became the Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois at midnight, earlier today upon Judge Rubén Castillo stepping down as Chief after a six-year term. Judge Pallmeyer is the first woman to lead the district as Chief Judge.

"I am honored to lead the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois," said Chief Judge Pallmeyer.

Judge Castillo, who will remain on the bench as an active district court judge, stated: "This is truly a historic day for our court. I am pleased to turn over my chief judge responsibilities to Judge Pallmeyer, an outstanding jurist who so deeply loves this court."

Clerk of Court Tom Bruton stated, "I look forward to working with Chief Judge Pallmeyer on continuing to improve our court. Judge Castillo's inclusive, compassionate, and practical leadership as chief has set this court in an excellent direction."

Judge Pallmeyer was born in Tokyo, Japan. She was nominated to the federal bench by President Bill Clinton on July 31, 1997. She was confirmed by the Senate on October 21, 1998 and received her commission on October 22, 1998. Prior to becoming a District Judge, Judge Pallmeyer served as U.S. Magistrate Judge for the Northern District of Illinois from 1991 to 1998. From 1986 to 1991, she served as an administrative law judge for the Illinois Human Rights Commission. She worked in private practice from 1980 to 1985 and served as law clerk to Hon. Rosalie E. Wahl, Minnesota Supreme Court, from 1979 to 1980.

Judge Pallmeyer earned her undergraduate degree from Valparaiso University in 1976 and her law degree from the University of Chicago Law School in 1979.

On International Women's Day (March 8) 2019, then-Chief Judge Castillo announced his decision to step down as Chief Judge one year early, making way for Judge Pallmeyer to step-up as Chief.

A special ceremonial session of the court will take place at 3:00 p.m. on Monday, July 8, 2019 to welcome Chief Judge Pallmeyer.

Chief Judge Pallmeyer's Chambers are in Room 2548 of the Dirksen U.S. Courthouse, and her courtroom is 2541. Judge Castillo has relocated to Chambers Room 2588, and his courtroom is 2578.

Under federal law, a court's chief judge vacancy is filled by the district judge with the most seniority, who has not yet reached age 65. The law allows the chief judge to serve up to seven years or until he/she reaches age 70, whichever comes first.

##