

## Court Information Release



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

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United States District Court for  
the Northern District of Illinois  
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### **Judge Mary M. Rowland Sworn-in as District Judge for the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois**

Chicago, Ill. - In a private ceremony, Judge Mary M. Rowland was sworn-in as a U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois. She is the first open lesbian to serve as district judge in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois.

“We are so happy to welcome Judge Rowland to our district court bench. Her service to our court as a Magistrate Judge for the last seven years has been outstanding. I am confident she will continue to be an asset to our district,” said Chief Judge Rebecca R. Pallmeyer.

Judge Mary Rowland received her undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan and her law degree from the University of Chicago. She then served as a law clerk to Judge Julian Abele Cook, Jr. of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. She went on to serve for ten years in the Chicago Office of the Federal Defender, first as staff attorney and then as the chief appellate attorney. She later joined the firm of Hughes, Socol, Piers, Resnick & Dym Ltd. as a partner prior to her selection as a federal magistrate judge for the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois in 2012. Judge Rowland was nominated to the seat vacated by Judge Amy J. St. Eve, who was elevated to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit on May 23, 2018.

District court judges are nominated by the President and confirmed by the United States Senate, as stated in the Constitution. The Senate Judiciary Committee typically conducts confirmation hearings for each nominee. Article III of the Constitution states that these judicial officers are appointed for a life term.

District Judge Rowland will immediately receive a caseload of 342 randomly-assigned civil cases and will immediately be added to the civil case assignment system in order to be assigned new cases. Judge Rowland will sit in Dirksen U.S. Courthouse Courtroom 1225 and her chambers will be in Chambers 1268.

A formal investiture ceremony for Judge Rowland will be held at a later date.

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