

## Court Information Release



United States District Court  
Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division  
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### **Chief Judge Castillo Travels to Republic of Korea to Participate in Global Intellectual Property Court Conference**

*Number of IP cases filed in Northern District of Illinois grows by 61 percent over four years*

CHICAGO, Ill.- Last month Chief Judge Rubén Castillo traveled to the Patent Court of Korea in Seo District, Republic of Korea to present to the 2015 “International Intellectual Property (IP) Court Conference: court, IP and innovation.” Judge Castillo was invited to speak on a panel addressing “Harmonization and Cooperation in Patent Cases,” which included patent and IP judges from courts in Republic of Korea, Japan, and Germany.

“It was an honor to be part of this cutting-edge international discussion and to share best practices with judges who hear these highly complex cases,” said Judge Castillo.

Intellectual property case filings in the Northern District of Illinois have increased by 61 percent since 2011. In the 12-month period ending September 30, 2015, 732 IP cases were filed in the Northern District of Illinois. Nationally, the Northern District of Illinois is the federal district court with the fifth most IP cases filings in the U.S. Only in the Eastern District of Texas, Central District of California, District of New Jersey and Southern District of New York are more IP cases filed. Intellectual property cases include copyright, patent and trademark cases.

Nationally, the Northern District of Illinois ranks number seven on the list of courts with the most patent case filings. In the twelve month period ending September 30, 2015, 144 patent cases were filed in the Northern District of Illinois. Only in the Eastern District of Texas, the District of Delaware, the District of New Jersey, the Central District of California, the Northern District of California and the Southern District of Florida were more patent cases filed in the same period.

In 2011, the Northern District of Illinois became one of fourteen district courts selected to participate in a statutorily-created ten-year Patent Pilot Program designed to evaluate the

adjudication of patent cases. Under the Pilot Program all of the Northern District of Illinois district judges remain eligible to be initially assigned newly filed patent cases. However, those judges not designated as Patent Pilot judges, within thirty days of receiving a randomly assigned patent case, may order the case to be reassigned. That patent case is then randomly reassigned among the designated Patent Pilot judges for adjudication. The purpose of the Pilot Program is to enhance the selected courts' expertise in complex patent litigation.

“Through the Patent Pilot Program the Northern District of Illinois has deepened its expertise in intellectual property rights and has improved its handling of these highly technical cases. We are proud that the Northern District of Illinois is increasingly becoming a top venue for intellectual property disputes,” said Judge Castillo.

In 2009, the Northern District of Illinois adopted local patent rules, which were later amended in 2012, to provide a standard structure for patent cases and to permit greater predictability and planning for the court and litigants.

Intellectual property cases are typically litigated in the federal courts. With rapid advancements in technology and an increasingly knowledge-based society, IP disputes are becoming more complicated.

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