

Court Information Release



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EASTERN DIVISION
219 SOUTH DEARBORN STREET
CHICAGO, IL 60604

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John Z. Lee's Nomination as Judge of the Northern District of Illinois Confirmed

CHICAGO – On Monday, May 7, 2012, the U.S. Senate confirmed the nomination of John Z. Lee as a U.S. district judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

Judge-Designate Lee received his Bachelor of Arts Degree from Harvard College in 1989 and his Juris Doctorate from Harvard Law School in 1992, graduating with honors from both institutions. Lee first worked as a trial attorney for the United States Department of Justice, where he served in the Environmental and Natural Resources Division and as Special Assistant to the Counsel to Attorney General. He then worked as an associate of Mayer Brown LLP from 1994 to 1996, and as an associate of Grippo & Elden LLC from 1996 to 1999. Lee is currently a partner at Freeborn & Peters LLP, where he handles complex federal civil litigation with a focus on antitrust and trade regulation and intellectual property litigation.

Lee has also served as an Adjunct Professor and guest lecturer of antitrust law at The John Marshall Law School and has co-authored "Franchising: Antitrust Consideration," Chapter 9 in the Matthew Bender treatise, *Antitrust Counseling and Litigation Techniques*.

Chief Judge James F. Holderman said, "We are thrilled to welcome John to our bench and we look forward to him joining our court as soon as possible." Judge-Designate Lee will fill a position that became vacant in August 2009 when District Judge David H. Coar assumed senior status. When Judge-Designate Lee's swearing-in occurs, which is anticipated to take place in a few weeks, the number of district judge vacancies on the Northern District of Illinois bench will be cut to four. Chief Judge Holderman noted that the nomination of John J. Tharp, Jr., who was also favorably reported by the Senate Judiciary Committee on February 16, 2012, "remains on the U.S. Senate floor," adding, "we hope that Jay's nomination will be confirmed before the end of May."