

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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United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois Selects Three New Magistrate Judges

CHICAGO – Chief Judge James F. Holderman today announced that Sheila M. Finnegan, Jeffrey T. Gilbert, and Young B. Kim have been selected by the district judges of the Northern District of Illinois to be United States Magistrate Judges, filling two vacancies and one newly created magistrate judgeship. The Judicial Conference of the United States approved the creation of a new magistrate judgeship for the Northern District of Illinois on September 15, 2009. The two vacancies were created by the retirement and recall of Magistrate Judges Martin Ashman and Arlander Keys.

In September 2009, over seventy-five individuals applied for the open positions of United States Magistrate Judge. The 2009 Magistrate Judge Merit Selection Panel reviewed the qualifications of the applicants and made recommendations to the district judges of the court, who interviewed each of the recommended finalists and selected the three new United States Magistrate Judges last evening.

Chief Judge James F. Holderman stated: “We look forward to welcoming each of these outstanding attorneys to our court. Our 2009 Magistrate Judge Merit Selection Panel did an excellent job of screening the applicants. Each of the recommended finalists was well-qualified to serve as a United States Magistrate Judge. We district judges were very fortunate to have had such excellent candidates from which to choose our district’s next United States Magistrate Judges.”

The district’s 2009 Magistrate Judge Merit Selection Panel, comprised of both attorneys and non-attorneys, was headed by Chicago attorneys Karen McNulty Enright and James R. Figliulo. Other members included Ms. Aurora N. Abella-Austriaco, Mr. K. Stephen Anderson, Ms. Jessica Arong O’Brien, Ms. Karina Ayala-Bermejo, Mr. Joseph G. Bisceglia, Ms. Celia G. Gamrath, Ms. Patricia Brown Holmes, Mr. John F. Murphy, Ms. Jennifer T. Nijman, Mr. Lawrence Oliver II, Mr. Larry R. Rogers Jr., Ms. Susan Q. Sedler, and Mr. Jeffrey S. Torosian.

Chief Judge Holderman stated that he hopes that each of the newly selected United States Magistrate Judges will be able to join the court this spring.

Sheila M. Finnegan received her law degree from the University of Chicago (1986) and currently co-chairs Mayer Brown's Chicago litigation practice, handling civil and criminal trials. In 2008, 2009, and 2010, she was recognized as one of the top 50 women lawyers in Illinois by *Super Lawyers*. Prior to joining Mayer Brown, Ms. Finnegan served as Chief of the Criminal Division in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Illinois. She also served for several years on the Financial Fraud Task Force. Ms. Finnegan served as Law Clerk to The Honorable Milton I. Shadur, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, and is an Adjunct Professor of Trial Advocacy at Northwestern University Law School.

Jeffrey T. Gilbert received his law degree from Northwestern University (1980). He is a partner with Reed Smith in its Chicago office and is a member of the firm's regulatory litigation group. Mr. Gilbert originally practiced with Sachnoff & Weaver, which combined with Reed Smith in 2007. Prior to entering private practice, Mr. Gilbert served as Law Clerk to The Honorable Marvin E. Aspen, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. He has been recognized as an Illinois Super Lawyer by *Law and Politics* and the publishers of *Chicago* magazine from 2005-2010. Mr. Gilbert is also an Adjunct Professor of Trial Advocacy at Northwestern University Law School.

Administrative Law Judge Young B. Kim was born in South Korea. He received his law degree from Loyola University of Chicago School of Law (1991). Judge Kim began his legal career as an Assistant Public Defender in Cook County, working in various misdemeanor courtrooms and in the Domestic Violence Division. Two years later, he served as Law Clerk to The Honorable Charles R. Norgle, Sr., U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. After his clerkship, Judge Kim joined the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Illinois, where he litigated both civil and criminal cases. During his seven-year service, Judge Kim focused on healthcare fraud, medical malpractice, and employment discrimination cases. In 2001, Judge Kim accepted an appointment with the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission as an Administrative Law Judge. Judge Kim is one of the recipients of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association's "2004 Best Lawyers Under 40" award.

The Northern District of Illinois has eight active United States Magistrate Judges in Chicago and one in Rockford. The new magistrate judges will be headquartered in the Everett McKinley Dirksen United States Courthouse in Chicago.