

## Court Information Release



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

**Release Date:**  
September 9, 2020

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### **U.S. District Court selects Margaret J. Schneider to serve as U.S. Magistrate Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, Western Division, upon confirmation of Judge Johnston as District Judge**

CHICAGO, Ill.- Chief Judge Rebecca R. Pallmeyer announced today that the U.S. District Court has selected Margaret (Maggie) J. Schneider to be the next United States Magistrate Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, Western Division, if Magistrate Judge Iain D. Johnston is confirmed as a United States District Judge by the U.S. Senate.

“We are so pleased Ms. Schneider will be joining the Court. She has extensive litigation experience in both criminal and civil matters. I am confident she will be a wonderful asset to our esteemed Western Division bench,” said Chief Judge Pallmeyer.

Ms. Schneider earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Illinois and her law degree from the University of Michigan Law School. After graduating law school, Ms. Schneider served as law clerk to the Honorable Paul V. Niemeyer, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. In 2002, she joined the Chicago office of Mayer Brown, where, as a litigation associate, she litigated criminal and civil cases. In 2006, she joined the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division, as an Assistant U.S. Attorney. There she served as Deputy Chief of the Narcotics Section from 2012 until 2014, Deputy Chief of the Violent Crimes Section from 2014 until 2015, and in 2015, she transferred to Western Division Branch in Rockford. In 2018, she was promoted to Branch Chief, where she currently oversees the work of seven Assistant U.S. Attorneys.

The selection of a magistrate judge is governed by statute and by regulations adopted by the Judicial Conference of the United States. The Court had the outstanding assistance of a Merit Selection Panel, which screened and interviewed candidates and made a recommendation to the district judges of best qualified candidates. The Panel, comprised of both attorneys and non-attorneys, was chaired by Hon. P. Michael Mahoney (ret.). Members of the Panel included Mr. Carlos S. Arevalo, Mr. Charles Box, Ms. Wendy Crouch, Mr. Earl Dotson, Jr., Hon. Lisa Fabiano, Mr. Paul Gaziano, Ms. Lindsay Jenkins, Hon. Francis M. Martinez, Mr. Ifeanyi Mogbana, and Hon. Jack O’Malley (ret.).

The magistrate judge position requires a minimum of five years as a member in good standing of the bar of the highest court of a state and at least five years of active practice of law. The term of office for a magistrate judge is eight years, with the opportunity of renewal of additional terms.

Magistrate judges perform a variety of duties for the court, including conducting preliminary proceedings in federal criminal cases and the trial and disposition of federal misdemeanor cases upon consent of the litigants. They conduct various pretrial matters and evidentiary proceedings upon referral from a district judge of the court and the trial and disposition of federal civil cases upon consent of the litigants.

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