

Court Information Release



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Contact: Julie Hodek, Public Information Officer
United States District Court for
the Northern District of Illinois
219 S. Dearborn St., #2548
Chicago, IL 60604
312-613-5204

District judges select M. David Weisman to serve as U.S. magistrate judge for Northern District of Illinois

CHICAGO, Ill. - Today the U.S. District Court for Northern District of Illinois announces the selection of M. David Weisman as a U.S. magistrate judge. M. David Weisman will preside in Chicago, in the Eastern Division, filling the judicial vacancy that will be created in June 2016 upon the retirement of U.S. Magistrate Judge Geraldine Soat Brown.

"We are honored to welcome M. David Weisman to the bench," said Chief Judge Castillo. "Mr. Weisman is an accomplished attorney who has demonstrated a strong commitment to public service. I know that his outstanding credentials and his vast experience in both criminal and civil law will benefit the Northern District of Illinois."

Mr. Weisman is currently a partner at Miller Shakman & Beem in Chicago. He earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Virginia and his law degree from the University of Texas School of Law. After law school, Mr. Weisman joined the FBI as a special agent from 1989 to 1993. From 1993 until 1996, he joined Glasser & Glasser in Virginia where he worked on asbestos related class action matters. From 1996 until 2001, he worked at the City of Chicago Law Department where he worked as an assistant corporation counsel. He worked on the Drug and Gang House Enforcement program and litigated federal civil rights cases on behalf of City of Chicago employees. In 2001, he joined the U.S. Attorney's office as an assistant U.S. attorney until 2011. From 2011 until 2013, Mr. Weisman was a partner at Katten Muchin Rosenman.

Today's announcement concludes a rigorous selection process which is governed by statute and by regulations adopted by the Judicial Conference of the United States. That process began in September 2015, when Chief Judge Castillo announced that the court would be seeking applicants. In October 2015, Chief Judge Castillo appointed the district's Merit Selection Panel, which screened and interviewed candidates and made a recommendation to district judges of the five applicants it found best qualified from the more than one hundred applicants.

“I also want to extend sincere thanks to the district’s Merit Selection Panel for their service to the court in reviewing and recommending candidates,” Chief Judge Castillo added.

Chaired by Patricia Brown Holmes, President of the Chicago Bar Association, the Merit Selection Panel was comprised of both attorneys and non-attorneys. Other members of the panel included Joseph M. Gagliardo, Carolyn Grisko, Sharon Jones, Spiridoula Mavrothalasitis, Jonathan McCabe, John F. Murphy, José Padilla, Samuel S. Park, Stephen H. Pugh, Zaldwaynaka Scott, and Nigel Telman.

“The applicant pool was extensive and extremely qualified. I do not envy the judges who had to make the final decision. Knowing David Weisman, I know he will be an excellent addition to the Northern District of Illinois,” said Patricia Brown Holmes.

Chief Judge Castillo also stated, “Mr. Weisman joins one of the hardest-working magistrate benches in the country. We are especially grateful to Judge Brown for her exemplary service and dedication. I am confident that Mr. Weisman will live up to that same level of commitment Judge Brown has personified over the last sixteen years.”

M. David Weisman is expected to assume the bench in June 2016, upon the retirement of Judge Brown.

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 to renew the appointment for 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.

The Northern District of Illinois is authorized twelve magistrate judges in Chicago and one in Rockford. With twenty-two authorized district judgeships, the U.S. District for the Northern District of Illinois is the third largest district court in the U.S. The Northern District of Illinois stretches across 18 counties, covering an area of nearly 10,100 square miles, with a population of 9.3 million people.

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