

Court Information Release



United States District Court
Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division
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Magistrate Judges Sheila Finnegan, Jeffrey T. Gilbert, and Young B. Kim Each Reappointed to Eight Year Term

CHICAGO, Ill. - Chief Judge Rubén Castillo announced today that United States Magistrate Judges Sheila Finnegan, Jeffrey T. Gilbert, and Young B. Kim were each reappointed to a new eight year term of service as United States Magistrate Judges. Judge Finnegan's new term expires on April 25, 2026. Judges Gilbert's and Judge Kim's new terms each expire on May 7, 2026.

"I am extremely proud of Judge Finnegan, Judge Gilbert, and Judge Kim for their dedication to this Court and their commitment to the fair and impartial administration of justice. The magistrate judges of the Northern District of Illinois are indispensable to this Court," said Chief Judge Castillo.

In August 2017, Chief Judge Castillo directed the Magistrate Judge Advisory Panel to review the service of Magistrate Judges Finnegan, Gilbert, and Kim and to make a report to the court's district judges recommending whether each of these magistrate judges should be reappointed. After interviewing the district judges and reviewing submitted public comments, survey responses by members of the bar, and statistical data regarding caseload for each of the incumbent magistrate judges; the panel recommended reappointment for each of these judges.

The Panel was chaired by Patricia Brown Holmes, and the members were as follows:

Ricardo Estrada*
Joseph M. Gagliardo
Marisel A. Hernandez
Ianna Kachoris*
Spiridoula (Litza) Mavrothalasitis
Samuel S. Park
Stephen H. Pugh
Sergio F. Rodriguez
Zaldwaynaka (Z) Scott

Natalie J. Spears
Nigel F. Telman

“Thank you to this well-qualified and diverse panel of attorneys and citizens for their service to the court and our community by undertaking this important task, without pay, on behalf of the people of the Northern District of Illinois,” said Chief Judge Castillo.

United States 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 disposition of federal civil cases upon consent of the litigants.

*By regulation, the Panel must include at least two non-lawyers.

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