

Court Information Release



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

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Magistrate Judge Mary M. Rowland's and Martha Pacold's Nominations as Judges of the Northern District of Illinois Confirmed

Chicago, Ill. – On July 31, 2019, the U.S. Senate confirmed the nominations of U.S. Magistrate Judge Mary M. Rowland and Martha Pacold, Deputy General Counsel to the U.S. Treasury Department, as district judges for the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois.

“The court is pleased by the Senate’s confirmation of Magistrate Judge Mary Rowland and Martha Pacold. We look forward to welcoming these excellent new judges to our bench. We extend our thanks to Senators Durbin and Duckworth for their efforts in securing these confirmations,” said Chief Judge Rebecca R. Pallmeyer.

Magistrate Judge Mary M. Rowland received her undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan and her law degree from the University of Chicago. She then served as a law clerk to Judge Julian Abele Cook, Jr. of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. She went on to serve for ten years in the Chicago Office of the Federal Defender, first as staff attorney and then as the chief appellate attorney. She later joined the firm of Hughes, Socol, Piers, Resnick & Dym Ltd. as a partner prior to her selection as a federal magistrate judge for the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois in 2012. Judge Rowland was nominated to the seat vacated by Judge Amy J. St. Eve, who was elevated to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit on May 23, 2018. Judge Rowland is currently awaiting her judicial commission.

Judge-Designate Martha Pacold earned her undergraduate degree from Indiana University and her law degree from University of Chicago Law School. Judge-Designate Pacold clerked for

Judge Arthur Raymond Randolph of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, Judge Jay Bybee of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas. Judge-Designate Pacold then joined the Department of Justice as Counsel to Attorney General Alberto Gonzalez. After a year, she joined the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia as a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney. In 2007, Judge-Designate Pacold joined the Chicago Office of Bartlit Beck Herman Palenchar & Scott LLP as an associate and later as a partner. In 2017, she left that position to serve as Executive Secretary in the U.S. Department of the Treasury. She became Deputy General Counsel a few months later and currently serves in that capacity. She is currently awaiting her judicial commission. The President nominated Judge-Designate Pacold to the seat vacated by Judge John W. Darrah, who took senior status on March 1, 2017.

The district court currently has five judicial vacancies.

Illinois' two U.S. Senators, Dick Durbin and Tammy Duckworth, have worked together to recommend qualified individuals for federal judgeships to the President.

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