

## Court Information Release



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

**Release Date:**  
May 7, 2026

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United States District Court for  
the Northern District of Illinois  
219 S. Dearborn St.  
Chicago, IL 60604  
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### **U.S. Magistrate Judge Karyn L. Bass Ehler Sworn In**

Chicago, Ill. – In a private ceremony, Karyn L. Bass Ehler was sworn in by United States District Judge Matthew F. Kennelly as the newest U.S. Magistrate Judge for the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois.

“We are very fortunate to welcome Judge Bass Ehler to our hardworking and dedicated magistrate judge bench. Her significant experience practicing before the Court and strong commitment to public service make her a tremendous addition to our district,” said Chief Judge Virginia M. Kendall.

Prior to joining the bench, Judge Bass Ehler served as the Assistant Chief Deputy Attorney General at the Office of the Illinois Attorney General, a position she held since 2021. Judge Bass Ehler served as the General Counsel for the Illinois Department of Public Health from 2020 until 2021. She was the head of the Civil Rights practice group and Senior Counsel at Grant & Eisenhofer from 2019 to 2020. She also worked at the Illinois Attorney General’s Office for four years as the Chief of the Civil Rights Bureau. Before that, she was a partner and an associate at Hughes Socol Piers Resnick & Dym from 2007 until 2015. She clerked for United States Circuit Court Judge William J. Bauer and United States District Court Judge Matthew F. Kennelly. In 2000, Judge Bass Ehler earned her undergraduate degree from Northwestern University, and in 2005, she earned her law degree from DePaul University College of Law.

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.

Magistrate Judge Bass Ehler will preside in Chicago and hold court at the Dirksen Courthouse. A public swearing-in ceremony will be held at a future date.

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