



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

Contact: Joel Daly
(312) 435-5693 (phone)
joel_daly@ilnd.uscourts.gov

**CLERK OF UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
TO RETIRE DECEMBER 31, 2011**

CHICAGO – Michael W. Dobbins, who has been the Clerk of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois since 1997, announced today he is retiring effective December 31, 2011.

Chief Judge James F. Holderman stated, “Mike Dobbins, over his thirty-five year career, has served the courts of the United States and the public with great distinction. In my opinion, he is the best federal district court clerk in the country. All the people of our district have benefitted greatly from his outstanding administrative skills and expertise during these past fourteen years he has served as our Clerk of Court here in the Northern District of Illinois.”

As the Clerk of Court, Mr. Dobbins has overseen the administration and operation of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, the third largest federal district court in the country. He has had fiscal responsibility for the more than \$26 million in the operating budget and other accounts of the district court.

Mr. Dobbins twice, in 1995 and 2007, received the prestigious Director’s Award for Outstanding Leadership awarded each year by the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts to the federal court administrator who has most demonstrated outstanding leadership in improving the administration of the federal courts.

Mr. Dobbins, at the request of the United States Government, has served internationally as a consultant to help other countries improve their court systems. On a national level, he has reviewed the operations of multiple federal district and bankruptcy courts and has advised them on ways to improve their systems to provide better service to the public. He has also been a moderator and faculty member of several educational programs sponsored by the Federal Judicial Center in Washington, D.C. for court administrative personnel and federal judges.

In addition to his college degree, Mr. Dobbins holds professional certifications as a certified judicial administrator, a certified financial planner, and a certified mediator.

Chief Judge Holderman stated, “We will immediately begin a national search for a new Clerk of Court, but Mike Dobbins will be difficult to replace because of his thoughtful planning, his steady approach, his vision, and his initiative in always working to do the job better for the public that we serve.”