

## Court Information Release



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

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### **U.S. MAGISTRATE JUDGE MERIT SELECTION PANEL NAMED**

CHICAGO – Chief Judge James F. Holderman announced that the members of the Court’s 2009 Magistrate Judge Merit Selection Panel have been appointed to assist the District Court in selecting qualified candidates to fill the vacant magistrate judge positions on the Court. The Panel, which statutorily is required to include at least two non-lawyers and cannot include any sitting judge, held its first meeting on September 22, 2009.

The Court currently has two vacant magistrate judge positions. The Judicial Conference of the United States approved the creation of a new magistrate judgeship for the Northern District of Illinois. The new position will be subject to passage of the budget before the position will be filled. The second position is the vacancy created by Magistrate Judge Martin Ashman’s retiring and becoming a recalled magistrate judge.

Ms. Karen McNulty Enright was appointed chairperson of the well-qualified and diverse Panel. The members of the Panel are Deputy Chair Mr. James R. Figliulo, Ms. Aurora N. Abella-Austriaco, Mr. K. Stephen Anderson, Ms. Jessica Arong O’Brien, Ms. Karina Ayala-Bermejo, Mr. Joseph G. Bisceglia, Ms. Celia G. Gamrath, Ms. Patricia Brown Holmes, Mr. John F. Murphy, Ms. Jennifer T. Nijman, Mr. Lawrence Oliver II, Mr. Larry R. Rogers Jr., Ms. Susan Q. Sedler, and Mr. Jeffrey S. Torosian. Under the law, the Panel must submit its report by December 22, 2009 and provide a list of at least ten candidates for the District Court Judges to consider for appointment to the vacant U.S. Magistrate Judge positions.

Chief Judge Holderman said, “The Merit Selection Panels that we have appointed in the past have done an outstanding job in qualifying and vetting candidates to fill magistrate judge positions.” He added, “Because of the dedicated work of the past Merit Selection Panels, we have, in my opinion, the finest magistrate judge bench in the country.” Many of this year’s Panel members have previously served on those past Panels. The judges of the Court look forward to receiving the 2009 Panel’s report and hope to have the new U.S. Magistrate Judges on the bench early next year.