



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

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Sunil Harjani Sworn-in as U.S. Magistrate Judge

Chicago, Ill. - Today Chief Judge Rubén Castillo swore-in Sunil R. Harjani as a U.S. Magistrate Judge for the Northern District of Illinois in a private ceremony.

“We are so pleased to welcome Judge Harjani to our Court. His vast litigation experience will be a wonderful asset to our Court’s talented and hard-working magistrate bench,” said Chief Judge Castillo.

Judge Harjani earned his undergraduate degree from Northwestern University in 1997 and his law degree from Northwestern University School of Law in 2000. He previously served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois since 2008. Most recently, he served as the Deputy Chief of the Securities and Commodities Fraud Section. From 2004 to 2008, Judge Harjani served as a Senior Attorney with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission where he was responsible for the investigation and prosecution of federal civil securities law violations.

Early in his career, Judge Harjani was a litigation associate with the law firm of Jenner & Block LLP in Chicago for approximately 2 ½ years. Judge Harjani also previously served as a law clerk to Judge Suzanne B. Conlon. Judge Harjani is an Adjunct Professor at the Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law. He became a certified mediator through Northwestern’s Center for Conflict Resolution and put those skills into practice by volunteering his time on a pro-bono basis as a certified mediator with the Cook County Circuit Court.

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 Harjani will preside in Chicago, in the Eastern Division, and will immediately receive randomly-selected consent cases and civil referrals from his ten magistrate judge colleagues. He fills the judicial vacancy created by the untimely passing of Magistrate Judge Daniel G. Martin. A public swearing-in ceremony will be held at a future date. Magistrate judges serve a renewable eight-year term.

Jeffrey Cummings will be sworn-in as a magistrate judge in the Eastern Division on February 1, 2019, to fill the vacancy that will be created when Magistrate Judge Michael T. Mason retires. Selections for additional magistrate vacancies in Rockford and Chicago will also be made and announced in the upcoming months.

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