

Court Information Release



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EASTERN DIVISION
219 SOUTH DEARBORN STREET
CHICAGO, IL 60604

Release Date:
April 30, 2013

Contact: Chief Judge James F. Holderman
United States District Court for the
Northern District of Illinois
219 S. Dearborn Street, #2548
Chicago, Illinois 60604
(312) 435-5600 (phone)

Attorneys Sara Ellis and Andrea Wood Nominated for Two of the Three Vacancies on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois

CHICAGO – President Barack Obama has named two Chicago attorneys, Sara Ellis and Andrea Wood, as nominees to fill two of the three current vacancies on the court. Senator Dick Durbin recommended both attorneys to President Obama for the positions, after consulting with the office of Senator Mark Kirk.

Sara Lee Ellis received her B.A. from Indiana University in 1991 and her Juris Doctorate from the Loyola University Chicago School of Law in 1994. After law school, Ellis worked as a staff attorney at the Federal Defender Program in Chicago from 1994 to 1999. From 2000 to 2004, she worked at Stetler, Duffy & Rotert, Ltd., a white-collar criminal defense law firm. She then served as Assistant Corporation Counsel for the City of Chicago Department of Law from 2004 to 2007, where she handled class claims for injunctive relief and civil rights lawsuits. Ellis is currently counsel at the law firm of Schiff Hardin LLP in Chicago, where she is a member of the Litigation and White Collar Crime practice groups.

Andrea R. Wood received her B.A. from the University of Chicago in 1995 and her Juris Doctorate from Yale Law School in 1998. After law school, Wood served as a law clerk to Circuit Judge Diane Wood of the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit from 1998 to 1999. From 1999 to 2004, Andrea Wood was an associate at the law firm of Kirkland & Ellis LLP, where she handled an active litigation practice primarily in federal court. Wood joined the United States Securities and Exchange Commission as a Senior Attorney in 2004, and since that time has managed complex investigations and litigation matters involving a variety of securities law violations. Wood currently serves as Senior Trial Counsel in the Division of Enforcement of the United States Securities and Exchange Commission, a position she has held since 2007.

Chief Judge James F. Holderman stated: “We are pleased by these nominations. Sara Ellis and Andrea Wood are both experienced attorneys in federal court practice. I have no doubt that they will be outstanding district judges on our court.”