

## Court Information Release



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

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United States District Court for  
the Northern District of Illinois  
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### **U.S. District Court selects Albert Berry III to serve as U.S. Magistrate Judge for the Northern District of Illinois**

CHICAGO, Ill.- Chief Judge Virginia M. Kendall announced today that the U.S. District Court has selected Albert Berry III to be the next United States Magistrate Judge for the Northern District of Illinois. Mr. Berry has been designated to fill the vacancy created when Magistrate Judge Jeffrey Cole retires on May 6, 2025.

“We are so pleased that Mr. Berry will be joining our talented and hardworking magistrate judge bench. Mr. Berry is a practiced litigator with extensive experience in criminal matters and has demonstrated a career-long commitment to public service,” said Chief Judge Virginia M. Kendall.

Mr. Berry is currently an Assistant U.S. Attorney and Deputy Chief of the Violent Crimes Section in the U.S. Attorney’s Office (USAO) for the Northern District of Illinois. Prior to joining the USAO, Mr. Berry served as an Assistant Attorney General for the Illinois Attorney General’s Office from 2014 until 2016. He worked as a Senior Attorney, Torts, with the Chicago Transit Authority from 2012 to 2014. He also worked in the private practice of law in early 2012 and from 2003 until 2006. From 2006 until 2010, Mr. Berry served as an Assistant District Attorney with the New York County District Attorney’s Office. In 2000, Mr. Berry earned his undergraduate degree from South Carolina State University and his law degree from Albany Law School in 2003.

The magistrate judge position requires a minimum of five years as a member in good standing of the bar of the highest court of a state and at least five years of active practice of law. The term of office for a magistrate judge is eight years, with the opportunity of renewal of additional terms.

The selection of a magistrate judge is governed by statute and by regulations adopted by the Judicial Conference of the United States. The Court had the assistance of a Merit Selection Panel, which screened and interviewed candidates and made a recommendation to the district judges of five applicants it found best qualified. The Panel, comprised of both attorneys and non-attorneys, was chaired by Ms. Eileen Letts. Members of the Panel included Mr. Theodore T. Chung, Hon. Grace G. Dickler (Ret.), Mr. Joseph M. Gagliardo, Ms. Verneé Green, Ms. Nathalina Hudson, Ms. Spiridoula (Litza) Mavrothalasitis, Ms. Meghan C. Morrissey, Ms. Amanda Gabriela Penabad, Mr. Nigel F. Telman, Ms. Kali Thomas, Mr. Jeffrey S. Torosian, Hon. Debra B. Walker, and Hon. Edward Washington, II (Ret.).

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.

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