

Court Information Release



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

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Contact: Julie Hodek, Public Information Officer
United States District Court for
the Northern District of Illinois
219 S. Dearborn St., #2548
Chicago, IL 60604
312-435-5693

U.S. District Court selects Michael F. Iasparro 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 Michael F. Iasparro to be the next United States Magistrate Judge for the Northern District of Illinois. Upon completion of a background check, Mr. Iasparro will fill the vacancy created when Magistrate Judge Lisa Jensen stepped down from the bench last year.

“We are so pleased to welcome Michael Iasparro, a seasoned litigator with experience in complicated civil and criminal matters. He will be an outstanding addition to our talented and hardworking magistrate judge bench and Rockford team,” said Chief Judge Kendall.

Since 2008, Mr. Iasparro has worked at Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP, in Rockford, where his litigation practice has focused on complex civil and criminal matters in federal and state court. From 2002 until 2008, he served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Northern District of Illinois. Prior to that, he worked as an Assistant State’s Attorney in Winnebago County. Mr. Iasparro earned his law degree from Marquette University Law School and his undergraduate degree from Rockford University.

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 Hon. P. Michael Mahoney (ret.). Members of the Panel included Mr. Carlos Arevalo, Hon. Lisa Fabiano, Mr. Paul Gaziano, Ms. Roberta Holzwarth, Mr. Shelton Kay, Mr. David Kurlinkus, Mr. Ray Matlock, Mr. Ifeanyi Mogbana, Hon. Scott Paccagnini, and Ms. Fiona Whelan.

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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