

## 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 20, 2007

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### **United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois Selects Newest Magistrate Judge**

CHICAGO – Chief Judge James F. Holderman today announced that Susan E. Cox has been selected by the District Judges of the Northern District of Illinois to be a United States Magistrate Judge, filling the vacancy created when former Magistrate Judge Ian H. Levin retired in the summer of 2006.

With over fifty applications for the open position, the selection process began when Chief Judge Holderman appointed a panel of practitioners and leading community figures to assist the District Court in selecting its next Magistrate Judge, as required by statute. The seventeen-member Magistrate Judge Merit Selection Panel conducted numerous interviews of lawyers and judges over a three-month period, looking into each applicant's background and qualifications. At the request of the District Court, the Panel eventually narrowed the field of qualified applicants to six. The Panel then presented these six finalists to the District Court Judges for individual interviews, and a vote of the District Court Judges was conducted on April 19, 2007 to select the new Magistrate Judge.

In announcing the selection of Magistrate Judge Designate Cox, Chief Judge Holderman stated, "I am extremely pleased to have Susan Cox join the Court. She has all of the qualities we look for in a Magistrate Judge, including experience, integrity, insightfulness, intelligence and a passion for the law. On behalf of the Judges of the Court, I welcome Magistrate Judge Designate Cox and look forward to working with her as a member of the Court."

Ms. Cox is currently President and owner of the Law Offices of Susan E. Cox, Ltd., where she practices both civil and criminal law. She is a veteran trial attorney with substantial experience in civil and criminal law. That experience includes three years as a law clerk to United States District Judge Wayne R. Andersen, eight years as an Assistant United States Attorney and eleven years of civil practice, including trial work in employment, commercial and patent infringement cases. Ms. Cox also serves as an impartial Due Process Hearing Officer for the Illinois State Board

of Education and an adjunct professor at DePaul College of Law. She is a member of the Federal Defender panel and was appointed by the federal court to assist in monitoring the employment actions of the City of Chicago. As a practitioner, Ms. Cox has tried twenty-four civil and criminal cases to verdict. A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Allegheny College (1980), Ms. Cox received her law degree from Boston University School of Law (1983), where she was an editor of the *Boston University Law Review*.

With the addition of Magistrate Judge Designate Cox, the Northern District of Illinois will employ eleven Magistrate Judges – ten in Chicago and one in Rockford. Magistrate Judges perform a variety of duties for the Court, including conducting preliminary proceedings in criminal cases; assisting District Court Judges with pretrial motions, evidentiary proceedings, and settlement negotiations; and presiding over trials in civil cases and misdemeanor criminal cases, with the consent of the parties. Magistrate Judges are each appointed to a renewable eight-year term.